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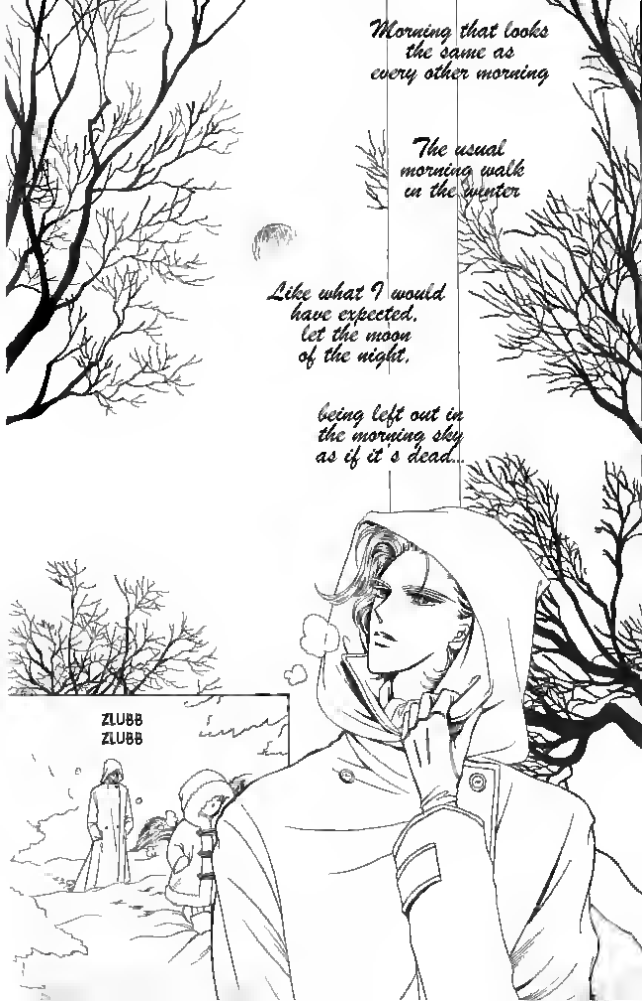
Mr. Fredward's Duck

by Keiko Ushijima

Raw/ Translator/ Cleaner/
Typesetter/ QC

THE WITCHES CONFERENCE
vol. 7 ch 21


Morning that looks
the same as
every other morning
The usual
morning walk
in the winter
Like what I would
have expected,
let the moon
of the night,
being left out in
the morning sky
as if it's dead...
ZLUBB
ZLUBB

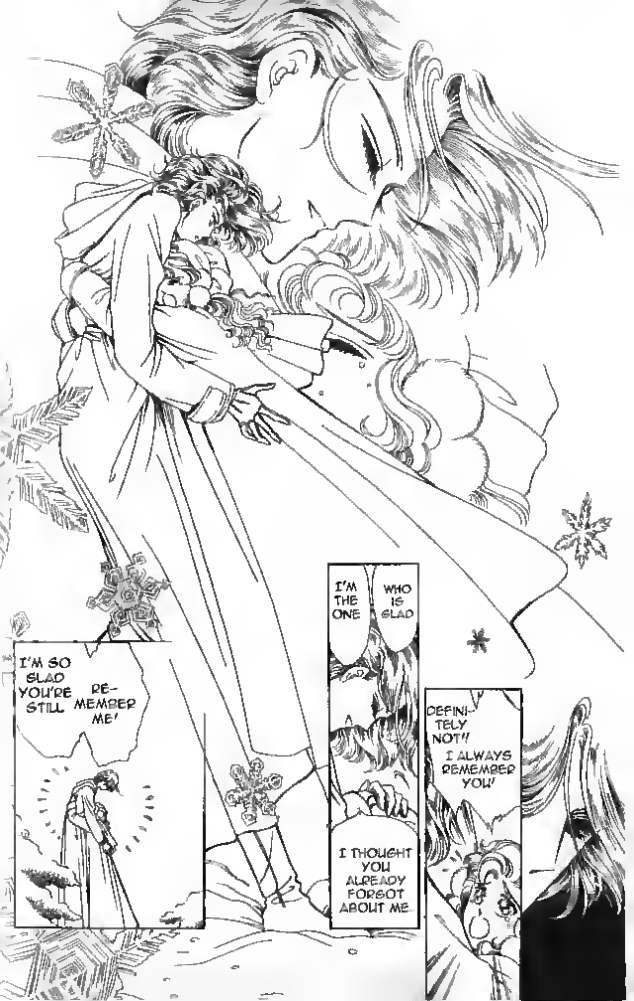
IF WE WALK TOGETHER, HE ALWAS WALK AHEAD OF ME...
NOT THAT FAR FROM HOME,
YET HE'S ALREADY PANTING
HE WOULD BE WALKING IN FRONT OF ME
MAYBE TO HIDE THIS FROM ME,
IS HE PANTING BECAUSE OF BREATHING PROBLEM? OR...
THE AIR IS PRETTY HUMID THIS MORNING
DO YOU WANT TO GO BACK NICK?
NO... ARE YOU ALREADY TIRED, KEVIN?
IF WE GO BACK NOW, CLIFF CAN'T HAVE HIS EXCERCISE!
OKAY, JUST FOR A LITTLE LONGER

AFTER COMING HERE, NICK HAS BEEN MORE CHEERFUL
IS IT TOO MUCH FOR AN OLD GUY?
WAIT! WAIT! WAIT!
BUT I WANT TO STAY CLOSE TO HIM, AS LONG AS HE CAN STAY HAPPY.
OLD KEVIN WORK LATE LAST NIGHT?
YEAH
BUT HIS BODY IS NOT GETTING BETTER, UNLIKE HIS SPIRIT
WHAT?!
YOU CAN'T CATCH ME!
HIS HAPPINESS.
AHAHAHA
WE CANNOT ACCEPT NICK.
IF WE CAN'T GET NICK INTO A SCHOOL HERE,
THIS IS AN UNAVOIDABLE MATTER

SHOULD WE MOVE OUT FROM THIS SMALL TOWN?
IF WE MOVE TO BIG CITY, WE CAN FIND A SCHOOL FOR HIM, RIGHT?
WOULD SHE COME WITH US IF WE HAVE TO LEAVE HER HOMETOWN?
AND ROSEMARY?
CAN FIND A PRIVATE TUTOR UNTIL HIS BODY GETS BETTER,

DAMN ...
THAT MOON SEEMS STILL
AAHH
DOCTOR'S HOME!!
IS THIS KEVIN'S HOUSE?!
!

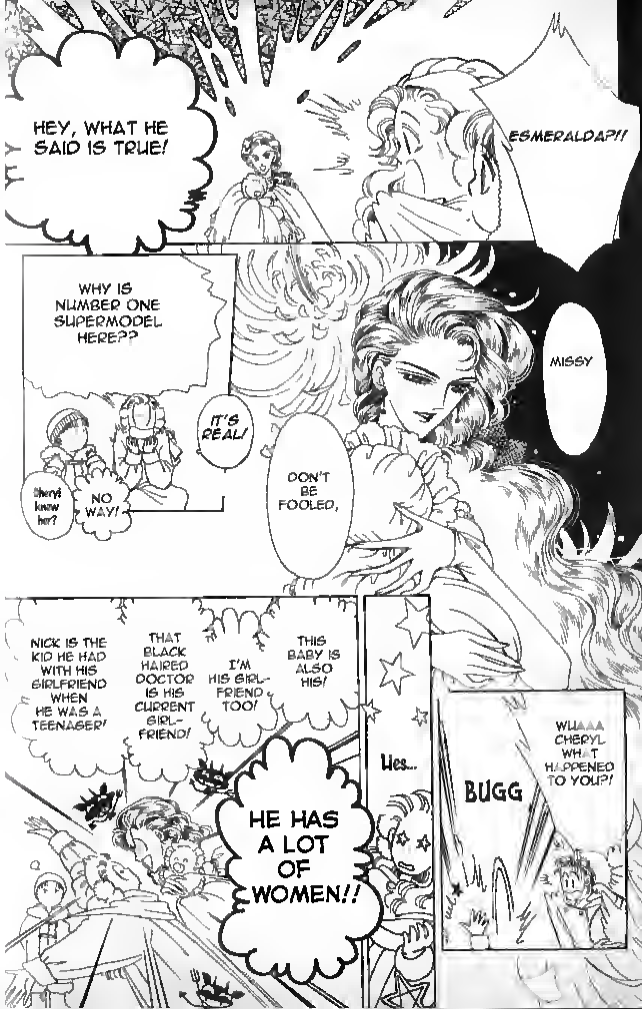
CHE-
RYL?!
KEVIN!
KEVIN!
KEVIN!


I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE STILL RE-MEMBER ME!
I'M THE ONE WHO IS GLAD
I THOUGHT YOU ALREADY FORGOT ABOUT ME
DEFINI-TELY NOT!! I ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU!

LET ME SEE YOUR FACE!
I WAS TOLD BY ONE OF THE COTTAGE WORKER YOU WERE STAYING AT IN THE ISLAND YOUR ADDRESS
I'M SCARED IF YOU'RE GOING TO SEND ME BACK HOME
I SEE. BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO CRY, DO YOU?
Doc-tor?
YOU GROWN UP! DID YOU CHANGE YOUR HAIR-STYLE?
I'M HAPPY YOU'RE VISITING ME TO THIS FAR PLACE.
NON-SENSE! WHO HAVE TOLD YOU?
YOU CAN STAY,
WE CAN HAVE A FESTAL NEW YEAR CELEBRATION!
RIGHT?
.....
PRO-BAB-LY
I'M SO GLAD I CAME HERE
KEVIN DOESN'T CHANGE... THE KIND KEVIN JUST AS I REMEMBER HIM FROM THE ISLAND.
LET'S GO IN! IS THIS ALL YOUR LUGGAGE?
SHALL WE SEE ROSEMARY? SHE WOULD BE SURPRISED!

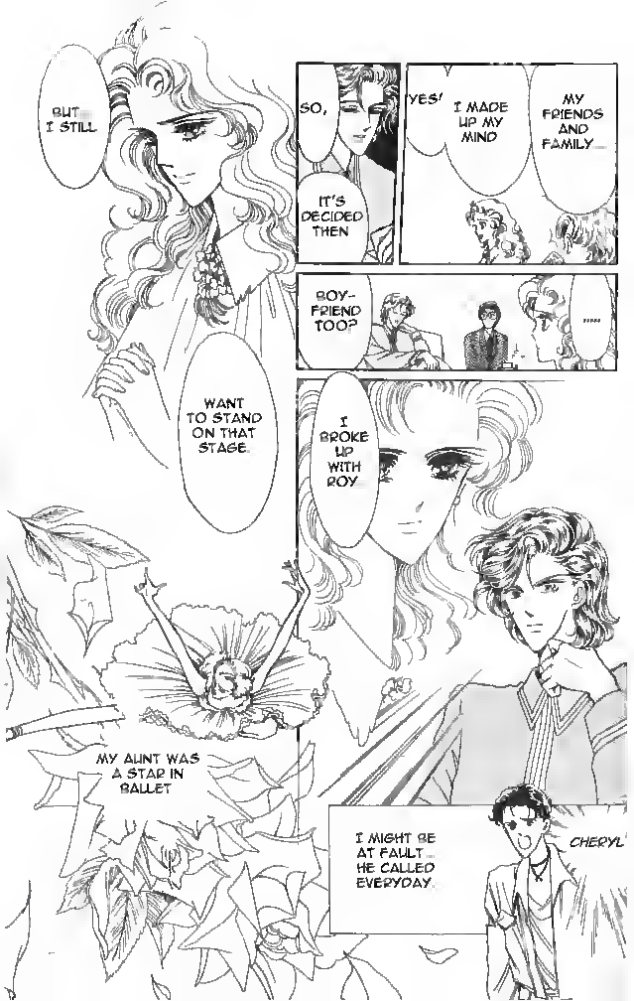
THANK YOU FOR TAKING ME HERE
YOU'RE WEL-COME
.....
THANK YOU SO MUCH, I REALLY APPRECIATE IT!
LIKE-WISE, YOUR WEL-COME!
If you want to go home
WWW
...!
I ALSO LIVE HERE
HUH ?!

HI CHERYL, THIS IS FIRST TIME WE MET. MY NAME IS GLORIA.
I'M A DOCTOR
BECAUSE THERE'S A PATIENT WHO NEEDS TAKING CARE OF, I HAVE TO STAY HERE EITHER I LIKE IT OR NOT
A DOC-TOR?
LIKE IT OR NOT?
THEN, I'LL GO FIRST
GLAPP GLAPP
JIIIING
HELLO
.....
I'M NICK
KEVIN IS MY DAD
PFFT
REAAAALLY? NO WAAY KEVIN WOULD HAVE A KID THIS BIG!

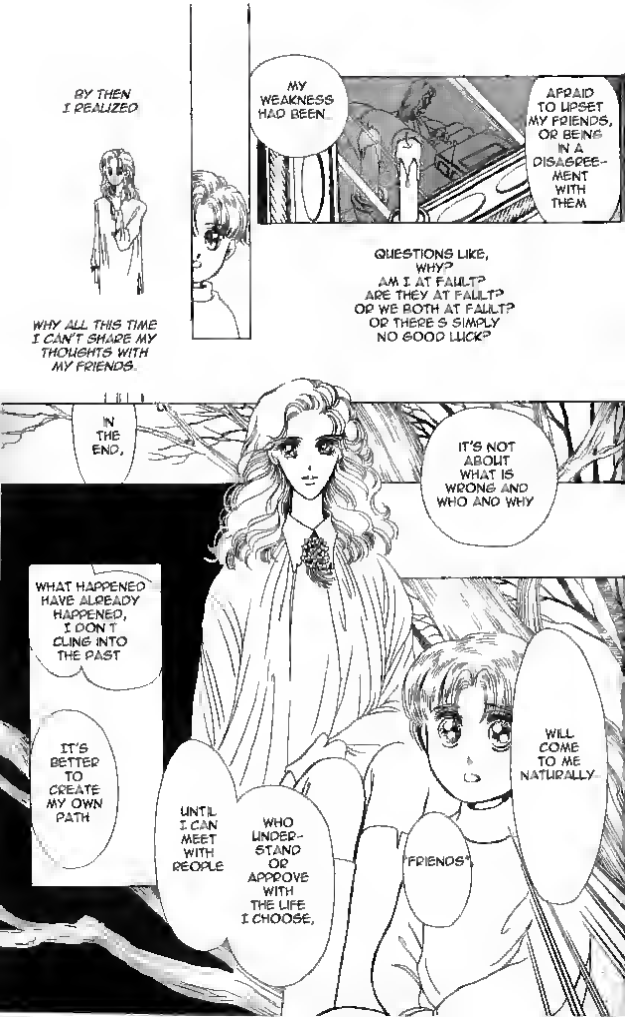

HEY, WHAT HE SAID IS TRUE!
ESMERALDA?!!
WHY IS NUMBER ONE SUPERMODEL HERE??
IT'S REAL!
NO WAY!
there know her?
DON'T BE FOOLED,
MISSY
NICK IS THE KID HE HAD WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND WHEN HE WAS A TEENAGER!
THAT BLACK HAIRED DOCTOR IS HIS CURRENT GIRL-FRIEND!
I'M HIS GIRL-FRIEND TOO!
THIS BABY IS ALSO HIS!
HE HAS A LOT OF WOMEN!!
Lies...
BUGG
WUAAA CHERYL WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!?

HOHOHOHOO
I FINISHED MY TRAINING
AHAHA! I'M FLATTERED ROSEMARY!
JUST BECAUSE OF MS ESMERALDA'S JOKES!
OHOHOOOO
NO ONE IS FLATTERING YOU!!
LAST SEPTEMBER I GRADUATED FROM ROYAL BALLET ACADEMY
OH?
UMM ACTUALLY

YES!
DO BALLET?
I AIM TO BE A PROFESSIONAL BALERINA!
YOU
HMM.
ISN'T IT GREAT, CHERYL,
NOWADAYS THE DANCERS ARE MOSTLY FOREIGNERS, WHO WERE
CONTRACTED FOR SOLO PARTS
ISN'T THE ROYAL BALLET IN THIS COUNTRY THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS IN THE WORLD?
MANY PEOPLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES ALSO COME TO LEARN, ISN'T THERE?
BEING A PROFESSIONAL BALERINA WITH SUCH COMPETITION
MY CHANCES ARE ONLY ONE PER A THOUSAND..


BUT I STILL
SO,
IT'S DECIDED THEN
YES!
I MADE UP MY MIND
MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY...
BOY-FRIEND TOO?
.....
WANT TO STAND ON THAT STAGE.
I BROKE UP WITH ROY.
MY AUNT WAS A STAR IN BALLET
I MIGHT BE AT FAULT... HE CALLED EVERYDAY.
CHERYL

CHERYL!
FORGIVE ME ROY, IT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T LIKE YOU...
BUT I LIKE SOMEONE ELSE, MORE THAN I LIKE YOU
ROY HAS A BEST FRIEND NAMED RYAN, AND RYAN HAS A GIRL FRIEND NAMED MEG
THE FOUR OF US USED TO HANG OUT TOGETHER
BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID THAT IF I BROKE UP WITH ROY IT WOULD MAKE ME LOST THEM TOO,
I CAME TO THEM TO CONFESS
AND
MEG?
I THINK WHAT YOU DID IS FINE.
WELL, WHAT CAN WE DO? BESIDES ALL OF US HAVE ALREADY GRADUATED
ROY IS ROY, AND CHERYL GOES ON CHERYL'S WAY
MEG!
ALL THIS TIME WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS THROUGH OUR BOYFRIENDS
FROM NOW ON, LET US START A NEW FRIENDSHIP

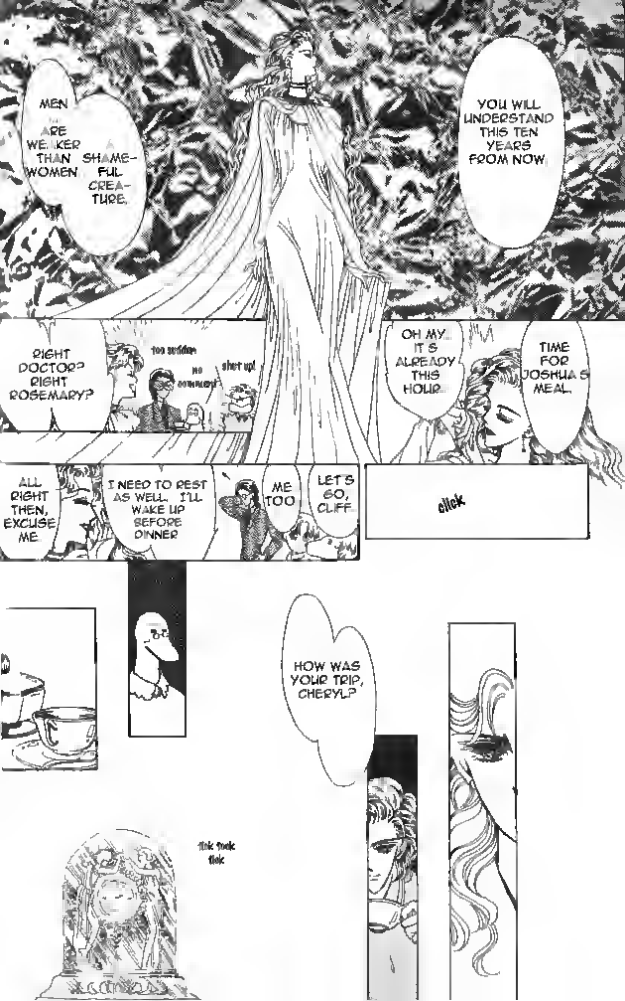

BY THEN I REALIZED
WHY ALL THIS TIME I CAN'T SHARE MY THOUGHTS WITH MY FRIENDS.
MY WEAKNESS HAD BEEN...
AFRAID TO UPSET MY FRIENDS, OR BEING IN A DISAGREE-MENT WITH THEM
QUESTIONS LIKE, WHY? AM I AT FAULT? ARE THEY AT FAULT? OR WE BOTH AT FAULT? OR THERE'S SIMPLY NO GOOD LUCK?
IN THE END,
IT'S NOT ABOUT WHAT IS WRONG AND WHO AND WHY
WHAT HAPPENED HAVE ALREADY HAPPENED, I DON'T CLING INTO THE PAST
IT'S BETTER TO CREATE MY OWN PATH
UNTIL I CAN MEET WITH PEOPLE
WHO UNDER-STAND OR APPROVE WITH THE LIFE I CHOOSE,
"FRIENDS"
WILL COME TO ME NATURALLY

I HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD FRIENDS WITH MES
ALL THIS ARE THANKS TO YOU
AH REALLY?
REALLY! TO HAVE FINISHED MY STUDY, HAVING FRIENDS,
ALL MY CHANGES
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO CONFESS ONCE I FINISHED MY SCHOOL, AND I DID WORK HARD FOR IT

I LOVE YOU, KEVIN!

...
UMM
I
I AM STILL TOO GREEN NOW BUT
BUT?
DEFINITELY, DEFINITELY I WILL BECOME A GREAT BALERINA

IN OTHER WORDS,
FOR THIS LITTLE LADY,
KEVIN IS LIKE THE LEGENDARY PRINCE SUCH AS SIEGFRIED OR LOHENGRIN
YOUR KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR?
WHAT IF I AM?!
YOU
HAVE A PROBLEM?
THAT IS JUST AWESOME! DID YOU HEAR THAT?!
KEVIN YOU'VE BEEN OVER-VALUED!
HA!
I'M NOT A COMO-DITY
ESME-RALDA!
THERE IS NO PRINCE.
LISTEN, MISSY


MEN ARE WEAKER THAN WOMEN
SHAMEFUL CREATURE.
YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THIS TEN YEARS FROM NOW.
RIGHT DOCTOR? RIGHT ROSEMARY?
too stubborn
no manners!
shut up!
OH MY. IT'S ALREADY THIS HOUR.
TIME FOR JOSHUA'S MEAL.
ALL RIGHT THEN, EXCUSE ME.
I NEED TO REST AS WELL. I'LL WAKE UP BEFORE DINNER
ME TOO
LET'S GO, CLIFF.
click
HOW WAS YOUR TRIP, CHERYL?
tink tink tink

WHAT IS THAT DOCTOR TO YOU?
DO YOU WANT ANOTHER CUP?
YOU MUST BE TIRED FROM THE TRIP.
AFTER THIS TEA, I SHALL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM
IS THAT OK, CHERYL?
IT'S OK, MEG.
HE SAID HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY GIRL-FRIEND.
A GUY THAT HANDSOME, MUST BE TARGETTED BY MANY GIRLS.
NO! FOR HIM, NO ONE!
I'VE BEEN LOVING HIM
FOR A LONG TIME.
THAT'S WHY I STUDIED SO HARD
I'M THE ONE WHO LOVED HIM FIRST!

TRENK
"sigh"
THAT SUMMER NIGHT
THIS IS MY HOMEMADE POTPOURI, PLEASE GIVE IT TO MISS CHERYL
SINCERELY ADMIRING A SAINT-LIKE WOMAN
FYUTTT
WERRRRR
WHY HAS IT COME TO THIS?

I LOVE YOU
NAIVETY AND HONESTY
IS IT BECAUSE SHE'S SO YOUNG, SHE WAS SO...
RELAXED?
NO, THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HER AGE.
IF I WERE AT HER AGE...
SHE IS SWEET, CHEERFUL, ENERGETIC
WHILE I WAS QUITE THE OPPOSITE...
I WOULDN'T DO SUCH THING
MAYBE THE TYPE WHO WAS MOST LOVED BY GUYS

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT, GLORIA?
YOU ARE "DENSHAM THE IRON LADY"
CEKLEK
A FITTING NAME FOR A HOSPITAL!
go to bed, go to bed!
SORRY FOR INTRUDING, DOCTOR
DON'T INVITE YOURSELF TO MY ROOM!
I've knocked
I DIDN'T HEAR. I WAS IN THE SHOWER!
NOW,
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I THINK I KINDA WANT TO TRY SITTING ON A CHEAP FURNITURE..
GET OUT!!
I M TIRED, SLEEPY! STOP BOTHERING ME
BEGG!!
SREEKK

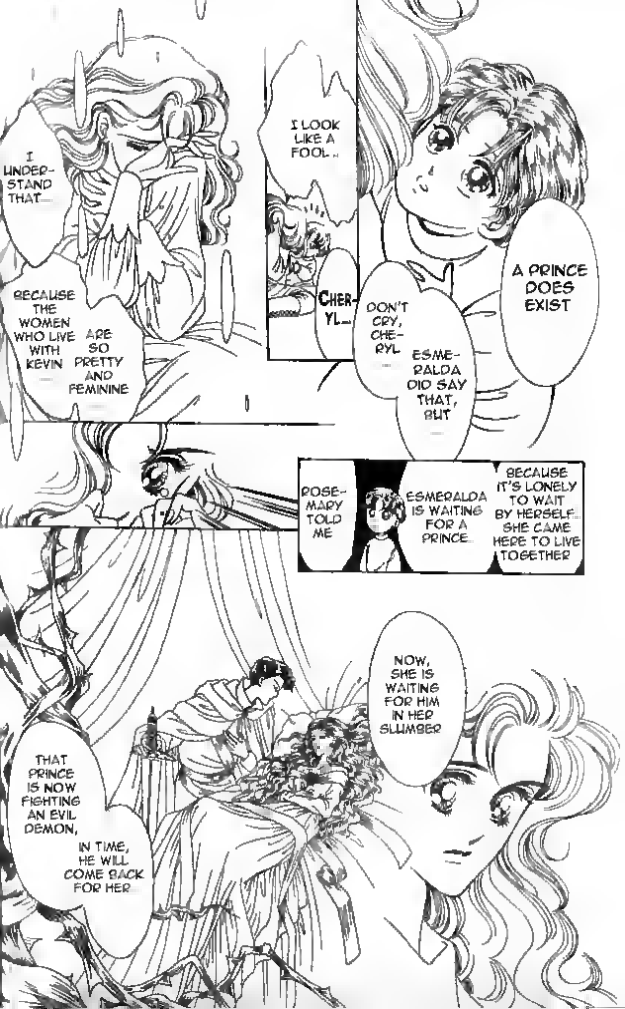
AAWW
ESMERALDA- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
STOP!
LET GO!!

ESMERALDA...
WHY?

"I'M SAD IF YOU'RE LOSING TO THAT KID."

SSH! NO CLIFF YOU CAN'T GET INTO THIS ROOM
NO! YOU CAN'T!
HUGGGH
IS THAT NICK?
KITT
YOU WANT TO GO INSIDE?
IT'S STILL A MESS
BOYS ARE SIMILAR AREN'T THEY?
I HAVE A YOUNGER BROTHER BY FOUR YEARS
HIS VOICE CHANGED AND GREW FACIAL HAIR IT'S SO FUNNY
THIS IS...
WHAT IS IT?
BUT WHEN HE SEES SOMETHING SHINY OR SPARKLING HE SHOWS A GREAT INTEREST
Sis! What is this?! and this? What?!

WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S A BALLET SHOES
I THOUGHT I'LL BE PRACTICING HERE...
I NEVER SAW A BALLET!
DON'T CRY
S-SORRY!!
I WAS-
ESMERALDA TEASES A LOT BUT SHE'S NOT A BAD PERSON
DOCTOR IS A BIT FIRM, BUT SHE'S ACTUALLY KIND
In my opinion


I UNDERSTAND THAT...
BECAUSE THE WOMEN WHO LIVE WITH KEVIN ARE SO PRETTY AND FEMININE
I LOOK LIKE A FOOL..
CHERYL...
DON'T CRY, CHERYL
ESMERALDA DID SAY THAT, BUT
A PRINCE DOES EXIST
ROSEMARY TOLD ME
ESMERALDA IS WAITING FOR A PRINCE
BECAUSE IT'S LONELY TO WAIT BY HERSELF. SHE CAME HERE TO LIVE TOGETHER
NOW, SHE IS WAITING FOR HIM IN HER SLUMBER
THAT PRINCE IS NOW FIGHTING AN EVIL DEMON,
IN TIME, HE WILL COME BACK FOR HER

SLEEPING BEAUTY
RIGHT?
CHERYL WILL ALSO DEFINITELY MEET HER PRINCE IN THE FUTURE
THANK YOU,
THANK YOU, NICK!
I'LL DO MY BEST!
BECAUSE THAT TIME, KEVIN SAID...
I WON'T LET MY SELF TO BE LONELY ANYMORE NOW AND FOREVER!

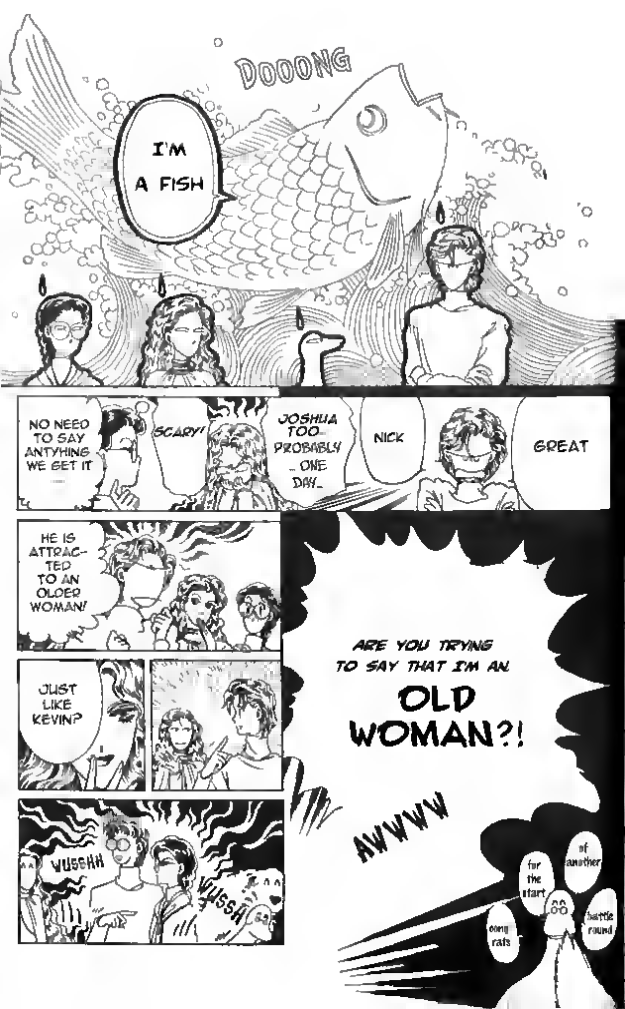
MIRACLE WILL HAPPEN TO YOU TOO
HEMMMM
I WONDER WHAT CHERYL'S FRAGRANCE IS
IT'S DIFFERENT TO KEVIN'S, ESMERALDA'S, DOCTOR'S OR ROSEMARY'S COLOGNE
HER CRYING
IS JUST LIKE MOM'S.

*) ch 8 pg 45

Cheryl.
Cheryl?
Cheryl!
IT'S OKAY IT'S OKAY, I WON'T TELL ANYONE--! LOOK, YOUR FACE IS RED
umm?
RED?
hi!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE POSING AT THE MIRROR?!
EG-ME-RAL-DA

WOOF!
W-WAIT!!
WAIIIT!
WOOF!
PRANGGG!
BUG! PAKK!!
NICK'S THROWING A TANTRUM!
REALLY? THAT USUALLY CALM KID?!
PATTHHW
WHAT'S GOING ON??
YOUR MEDS-
OUCH
NICK!!
NNNOO!!
THIS ISN'T A FEVER!!
I DON'T WANT TO DRINK MEDICINE!!
BUGG!!
SYAAAHH!
ARE YOU SICK, NICK?
WHAT'S WRONG?
KRRRT!

A COLD? MY BROTHER USED TO HAVE IT ALL THE TIME, BUT IT WILL HEAL NORMALLY ONCE SPRING COMES
IT'S ALL RIGHT NICK
COME ON, LETS DRINK SOME MEDICINE
MMM
IT'S FINE, JUST A SORE THROAT
PERHAPS HE CAUGHT A COLD
(RENDERED SPEECHELESS)


DOOONG
I'M A FISH
NO NEED TO SAY ANYTHING WE GET IT
SCARY!
JOSHUA TOO- PROBABLY - ONE DAY-
NICK
GREAT
HE IS ATTRACTED TO AN OLDER WOMAN!
JUST LIKE KEVIN?
WUSSHH
WUSSH
ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY THAT I'M AN
OLD WOMAN?!
AWWW
for the start
of another
going rats
battle round

PLEASE DON'T TELL CHERYL ABOUT MY ILLNESS
I WON'T TELL, BUT...
PLEASE
I CAN TEACH HIM FRENCH
ABOUT NICK'S HOME-SCHOOLING.

AND ALSO PIANO LES-SON
THIS IS A TER-RIFIC IDEA, KEVIN!
LIKE THE SAYING GOES, "WALK THE TALK"
THAT MEANS, IT'S BETTER TO DO SOME ACTION THAN JUST TALKING ABOUT IT
.....
SINCE GOING TO SCHOOL SEEMS UNLIKELY
BUT CAN I TEACH NICK AT HOME?
OH COME ON, YOU DID A HOME-SCHOOLING TOO
SEVERAL PRIVATE TUTORS WERE SUM-MONED
IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE FOR GLORIA
IT WOULD BE TOO MUCH FOR HER TO WORK AND TEACH TOO, BESIDES, IT TAKES TWO HOURS ON THE ROAD
WORLD ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONAL POLITIC, PSYCHOLOGY, CULTURE —
THOSE SUBJECTS AREN'T LISTED ON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM RIGHT?
IF IT'S MATH, WE CAN ASK DOCTOR TO TEACH.

RIGHT
BETTER THAN WONDERING BY MYSELF
AND I'LL DISCUSS WITH THE HEADMISTRESS IF NICK CAN HAVE EXAMS TO DETERMINE HIS GRADE
I'LL GO TO SCHOOL TOMORROW AND BUY SOME HAND BOOKS
FIX THE AWKWARDNESS
UMM, EXCUSE ME
DID YOU WAIT LONG?
NO, I...
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU.
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR NICK,

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT KEVIN?
I LIKE HIM.
I'M NOT GIVING UP...!!
I....
to be continued to ch 22

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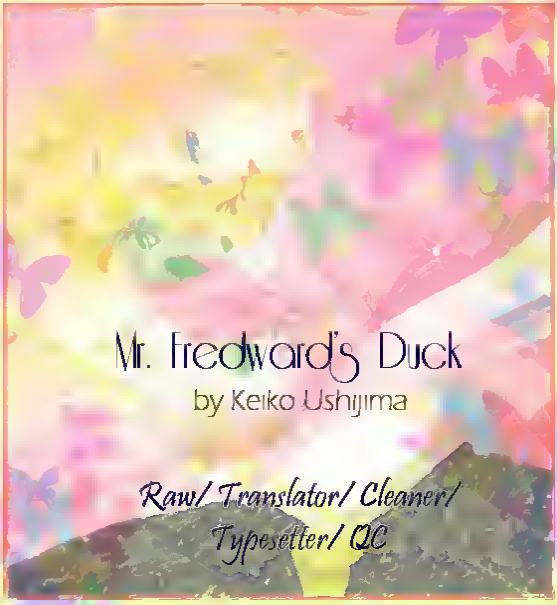

Fathskie scans

SNOW FAIRY

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CHERYL, LOOK!
WOW...! SO CUTE!
YOU'RE A FAST LEARNER, AREN'T YOU, NICK?
NOW, WE SHALL MAKE THE EYES FROM PIRACANTHA SEED,
IT WILL BE A RED EYE!
CHERYL KNOWS A LOT OF FUN GAMES!
SO HAPPY!
AH, WHAT TO DO NEXT?
WHAT ABOUT ICE SKATING?
IS THERE ANY POND NEARBY?
THERE'S A LAKE
IT'S DONE!
A SNOW RABBIT!
BUT IT'S CLOSED

Looking back
to the road I passed,
too many footprints
to count

I don't know what else I should do, I look around. Right, left, and to the front,
and see below to my feet where I find the snow melted on my heels.

In the sky, the grey cloud floats away... between the Spring's mist and a storm.

Just a poem in the far and away

SRAKK
WOOF WOOF!
AHHHHAHHA
THIS MORNING IS UNUSUALLY LOUD
AFTER CHERYL CAME, NICK HAVE CHANGED
WOOF
WOOF!
DON T YOU THINK SO, ESME-RALDA?
AH, CHERYL!
LET ME CARRY THAT!
THIS ONE IS HEAVY, LET ME TAKE CARE OF THIS.
THANK YOU!
THAT BOY IS GETTING STRONGER.

THE BEST PLAYMATES ARE THE KIDS AROUND HIS AGE
THIS MIGHT MAKES HIM LONELY
IF WE LOOK AT THINGS, THIS HOUSE IS FILLED WITH ADULTS
HE CAN ONLY PLAY WITH CLIFF
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT KEVIN?
I'M NOT GIVING UP!
I DEFINITELY WILL NOT GIVE UP
CHERYL IS NOT A KID ANY-MORE

SHE IS A
GROWN UP WOMAN
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? SHE'S JUST A CHILD
THE WAY YOU TALK ABOUT THINGS GIVES A CREEPY RING TO IT YOU KNOW, LIKE THE WAY A HUNDRED Y.O WITCH WOULD TALK.
I'M AN EXPERT AT CURSING THE PEOPLE I DON'T LIKE INTO FROGS, YOU KNOW
RIBBIT
I'M GOING
SHOUT
I'M KIDDING!
BARK!
LOOK LOOK! DOCTOR! ESMERALDA!
I MADE A ROSEMARY FROM SNOW!
ROSEMARY WHERE IS ROSEMARY?!
DON'T COME IN FROM THE TERRACE! THE COLD WIND BREEZED IN!!
GET INSIDE ONLY AFTER YOU CLEAN UP THE SNOW!

CAN YOU MOVE ASIDE? I CAN'T GET THROUGH.
SORRY
DASH
WHOAAH
THAT KID HAS SOME GUTS!
DOCTOR YOU WON'T LET HER SNATCH KEVIN WOULD YOU?!
this will be fun!

THAT'S UP TO HIM.
I MARRIED MY JOB
SEE YOU.
SPEAKING NONSENSE LIKE THAT.
IF THIS CONTINUES, KEVIN CAN REALLY BE STOLEN BY THAT KID

I'LL SHOW THIS TO KEVIN!
NOT NOW,
KEVIN HAS BEEN WORKING ALL NIGHT
WOW! IS THIS ME?
IT'S VERY NICE!
REALLY?
OH, DON'T
HE SAID HE HAS A DRAFT THAT NEEDS TO BE SUBMITTED TODAY
WE SHOULD NOT BOTHER HIM
LET'S PUT IT IN FREEZER AND SHOW IT TO HIM LATER
IF I'M WORKING, JUST LEAVE ME-
KLEEK
lyeak lyeak
IT'S TEA TIME
ROSE-MARY, I TOLD YOU FROM THE BEGIN-NING,

CAN I SERVE YOUR TEA?
GOOD MORNING!
UMM
IT WILL GET COLD
SORRY, JUST A LITTLE BIT
I'M THE ONE WHO PREPARED YOUR TEA
AM I
BEING A NUISANCE HERE?
PARAGRAPH IS LIKE ICE FROST,
IT WILL DISSOLVED IF INTERUPTED

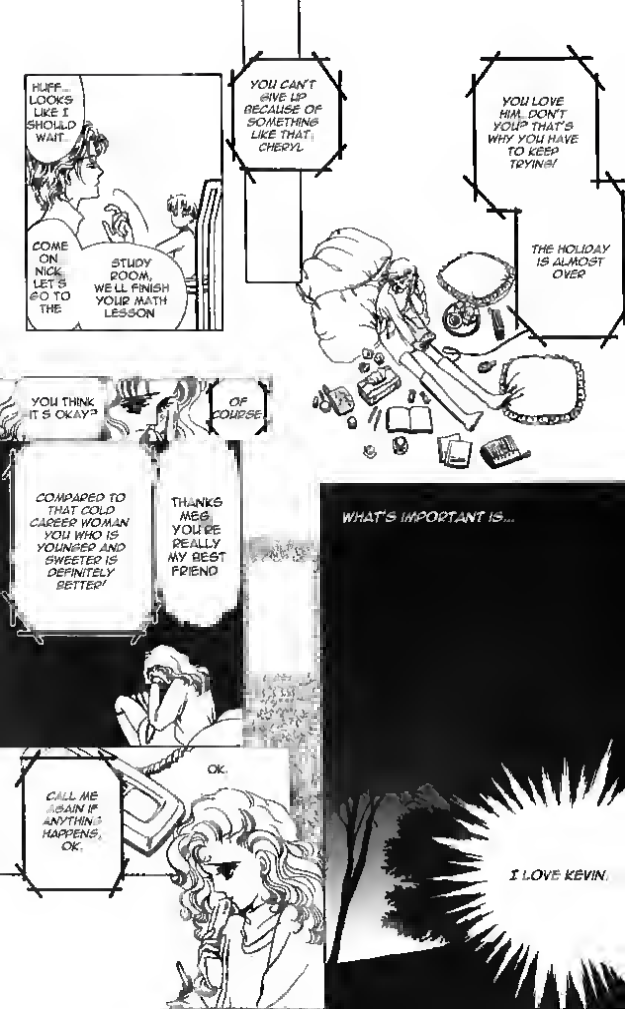
LOOKS LIKE
YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING
I LOVE YOU
PLEASE TELL ME WHAT YOU FEEL ABOUT ME

IF ...
I ASK YOU
TO QUIT BALLET FOR ME...
WOULD YOU DO IT?
WHAT?
QUIT BALLET?
YOU'RE KIDDING

DIDN'T YOU THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO DANCE UNTIL I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE?
ABOUT THAT
I'M SERIOUS...
I WILL NOT LOSE TO THAT WOMAN!
I'LL QUIT!
IF IT'S FOR YOU,
I'LL QUIT BALLET!

I CAN'T SEE...
WHERE YOUR HEART
REALLY IS.
...THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED FROM YOU.
BUT THEN AGAIN, YOU DID THE EXACT SAME THING.
WHEN ROY ASKED YOU TO QUIT YOU QUIT
BUT SINCE YOU CAN'T DISAPPOINT YOUR AUNT, YOU COULD NOT QUIT
NOW YOU SAID YOU WOULD QUIT FOR ME?

WUSHHH WUSHH
UMM IS CHERYL STILL ON THE PHONE? IT'S ALREADY TWO HOURS.
FOR A GIRL, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN TALKING TO A FRIEND IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING.
NICK, THAT SPELLING IS WRONG.
click
HEY, WHO'S ON THE PHONE?
I CAN'T SEND THE FAX.
TSCH
the draft is done
IT'S MISS CHERYL.
YES, KEVIN

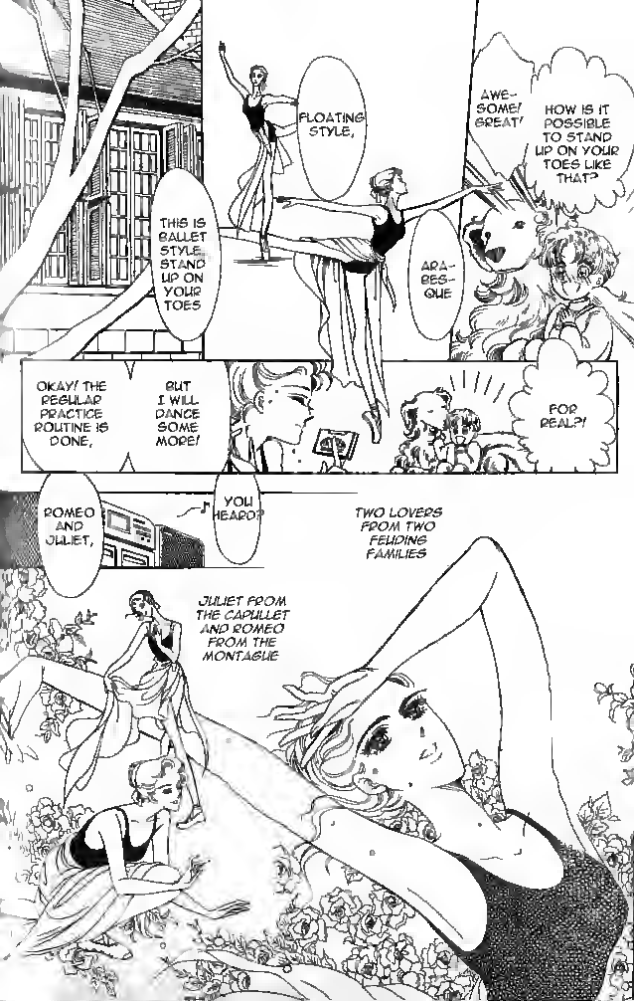

HUFF... LOOKS LIKE I SHOULD WAIT.
COME ON NICK, LET'S GO TO THE
STUDY ROOM, WE'LL FINISH YOUR MATH LESSON
YOU CAN'T GIVE UP BECAUSE OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT, CHERYL
YOU LOVE HIM, DON'T YOU? THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE TO KEEP TRYING!
THE HOLIDAY IS ALMOST OVER
YOU THINK IT'S OKAY?
OF COURSE.
COMPARED TO THAT COLD CAREER WOMAN YOU WHO IS YOUNGER AND SWEETER IS DEFINITELY BETTER!
THANKS MEG, YOU'RE REALLY MY BEST FRIEND
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS...
OK.
CALL ME AGAIN IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, OK.
I LOVE KEVIN.

CHERYL! ARE YOU OKAY? YOU'RE NOT SICK?
I CRIED ALL NIGHT LONG, SO TODAY I'M GONNA SMILE
GOOD MORNING, NICK!
I'M GOING TO DO WHAT I CAN
BECA-USE OF THE SHORT HOLIDAY
OF COURSE, IT WILL BE MORE FUN IF THERE'S AUDIENCE
OH THAT'S RIGHT, NOW I'M GOING TO PRACTICE BALLET, YOU WANT TO SEE?
CAN I??
THIS IS TERRIBLE!

WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS PLACE IS?!
THIS IS A STERILIZED ROOM!
STERILIZED YOURSELF IS THE BASIC PRINCIPLE!
IF THERE'S INFECTION IN THE HOSPITAL
THAT WOULD THREATEN OUR STAFFS' AND PATIENTS' LIVES!
LOOK AT THE WAY YOU USE DISIN-FECTANT!
DO YOU WANT TO TRANSFER MORE DISEASES TO THE PATIENTS?!
AS DOCTORS YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH AWARENESS!
AS USUAL, THE MIGHTY DOCTOR DENSHAM, VERY GALLANT
"THE IRON LADY"
SHE'S THE DEPART-MENT HEAD'S FAVORITE
CAN HAVE A SHORT CUT TO THE ELITES
NOT REALLY, DOESN'T SEEM SO...
IT SAID BECAUSE SHE HELPED A PATIENT TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL
HER PROMO-TION WAS CANCEL-LED
SREK . SREK .
HUH? WHAT? WHAT?
REALLY?
THAT COLD WOMAN?
DAMN THEM!
BRAPP!!

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
you baby chicks!
THE NEW DOCTORS TALK TOO MUCH..
YOU ARE TOO MUCH
OH HEAD NURSE
YOU'RE PERFECTIONIST
TOO MUCH?
ME?
MAYBE THAT'S WHY I'M NOT ACTTRACTIVE..
AND NOT DESIRABLE
EH? REALLY?
NO, IT'S NOT..
WE NURSES ARE JUST HUMANS ...
SOMETIMES WE MAKE MISTAKES
OUR APOLOGY

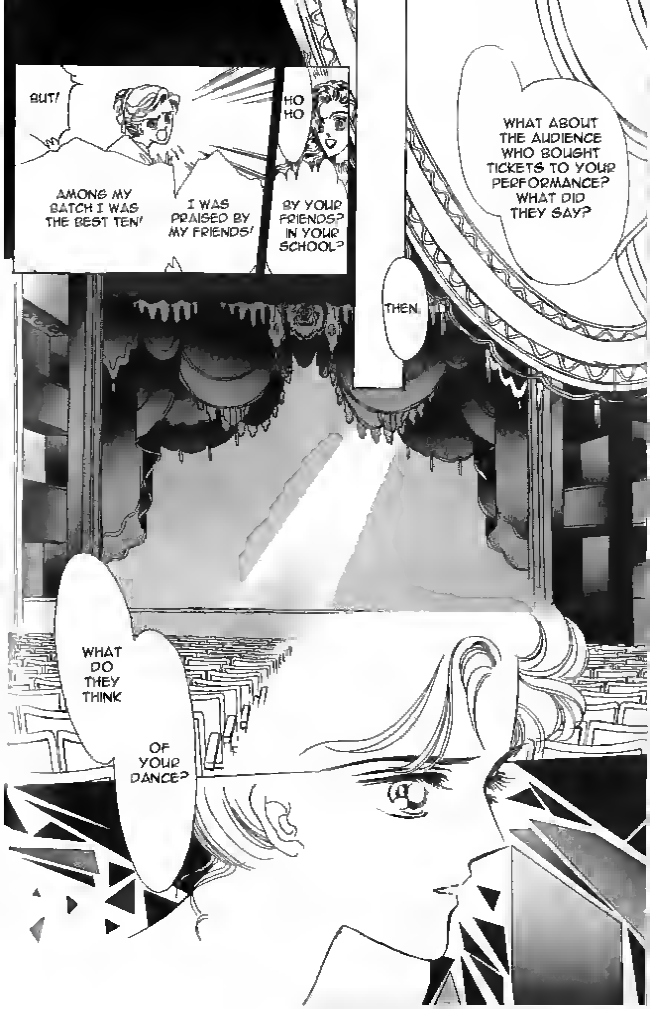
WE REALLY DEPEND ON YOU,
DOC-TOR!
BUT BECAUSE YOU'RE LIKE THAT,
WE NURSES HAVE PUT SO MUCH TRUST IN YOU
AND TREAT THE PATIENTS AS HOW YOU HAVE INSTRUCTED US TO
CAN'T EVEN TOLERATE MISTAKES
A COLD WOMAN!
THAT GIRL
NOW AND FOREVER
MIGHT WELL NEVER BE CALLED BY SUCH NAMES.
DOCTOR, A PHONE CALL FOR YOU IN LINE THREE
OH?
PHONE CALL FOR ME?
THAT'S RARE, WHO MIGHT THIS BE?
YES, HELLO?
.....!

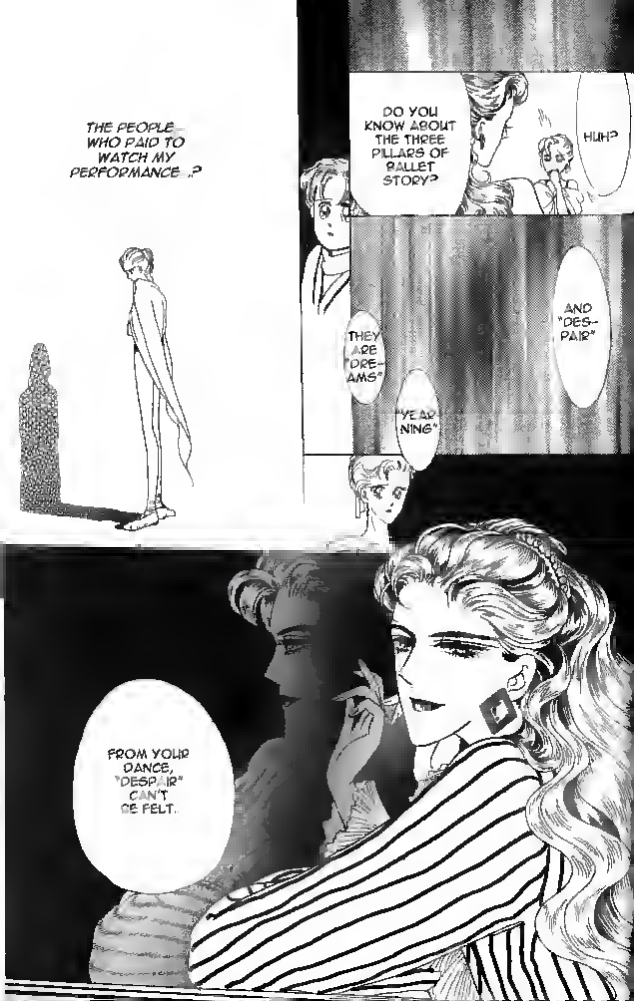

THIS IS BALLET STYLE. STAND UP ON YOUR TOES
FLOATING STYLE,
ARA-BES-QUE
AWE-SOME! GREAT!
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE TO STAND UP ON YOUR TOES LIKE THAT?
OKAY! THE REGULAR PRACTICE ROUTINE IS DONE,
BUT I WILL DANCE SOME MORE!
FOR REAL?!
ROMEO AND JULIET,
YOU HEARD?
TWO LOVERS FROM TWO FEUDING FAMILIES
JULIET FROM THE CAPULLET AND ROMEO FROM THE MONTAGUE

IT'S TRAGIC, BUT IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
LOVE UNTIL DEATH.
BEAUTIFUL!
GREAT!
HOOO
VERY GOOD!
THANK YOU!
I REMEMBER
RIGHT WHEN I SAW YOUR DANCE,
TURNING AROUND
TO A DOLL ON TOP OF THE MUSIC BOX,

PEOPLE WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ABOUT BALLET SHOULDN'T HAVE COMMENTED!
that's right!
I DID BALLET SINCE I WAS FOUR
WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE,
RIGHT UNTIL I WENT TO PARIS FOR MODELLING.
I STUDIED IN PRIVATE FROM THE TEACHERS OF ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL.
MY TEACHERS TAUGHT PRIVATE? IMPOSSIBLE!
DID YOU THINK A PROFESSIONAL MODEL JUST NEED TO GO ON A DIET AND LEARN HOW TO WALK?
IN LEARNING SOMETHING IT'S NORMAL TO STUDY OTHER THINGS AS WELL, ISN'T IT?

IT'S NATURAL FOR A BALLET STUDENT TO BE GOOD AT BALLET.
IT'S NATURAL FOR AN ART STUDENT TO BE GOOD AT ART.
AND THEN,
BESIDE LEARNING AT SCHOOL, WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU LEARNED FOR YOURSELF?
EVEN IF YOU CAN ENROLL IN A PRESTIGIOUS BALLET SCHOOL,
HISS
IF ONLY STUDY AT SCHOOL CAN'T BE A GOOD BALLERINA
BUT IF YOU'RE PRACTICING THE SAME ROUTINE AS YOUR FRIENDS,
YOU WILL BE ORDINARY.


WHAT ABOUT THE AUDIENCE WHO BOUGHT TICKETS TO YOUR PERFORMANCE? WHAT DID THEY SAY?
THEN,
HO HO
BY YOUR FRIENDS? IN YOUR SCHOOL?
I WAS PRAISED BY MY FRIENDS!
BUT!
AMONG MY BATCH I WAS THE BEST TEN!
WHAT DO THEY THINK OF YOUR DANCE?


THE PEOPLE WHO PAID TO WATCH MY PERFORMANCE..?
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE THREE PILLARS OF BALLET STORY?
HUH?
AND "DES-PAIR"
THEY ARE "DRE-AMS"
"YEAR-NING"
FROM YOUR DANCE, "DESP..IR" CAN'T BE FELT.

"DESPAIR"
CAN'T BE FELT

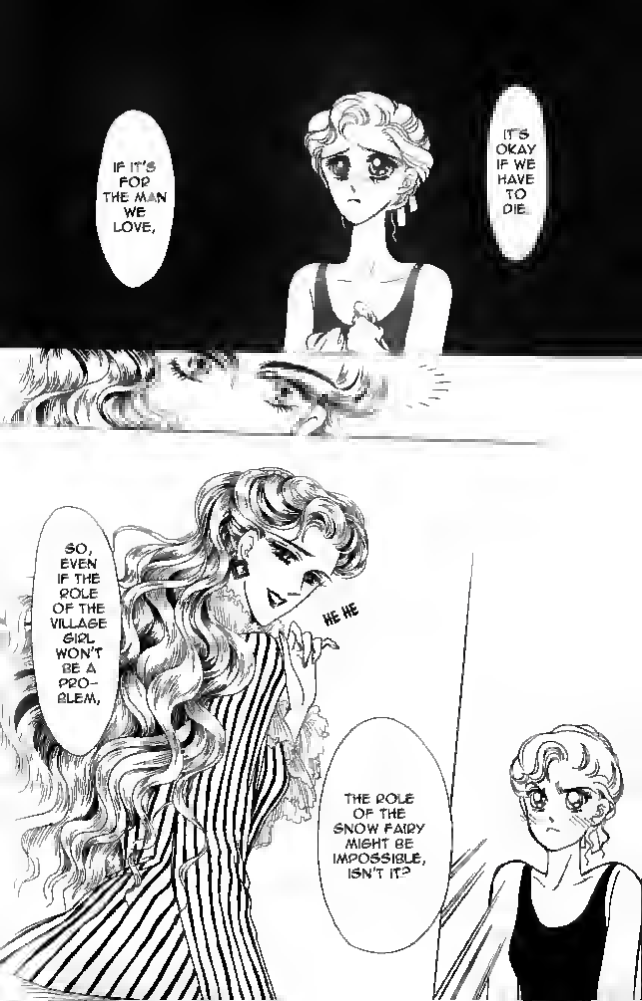
I HEARD FROM ROSEMARY
ONE OF THOSE,
SOME OF THE ANCIENT STORIES
OF THIS PLACE

WAS THE LEGEND OF A SNOW FAIRY

ONCE UPON A TIME,
ONE DAY SHE WENT DOWN THE MOUNTAIN AND SAW A HUNTER AT THE FOREST. SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH THE MAN
ON THE FAR NORTH AT THE PEAK OF A SACRED MOUNTAIN
LIVED A SNOW FAIRY WHO COMMANDS THE SNOW.
SHE BEGGED THE MAN TO RETURN HER LOVE
BUT THE MAN REFUSED
BECAUSE HE ALREADY HAD A FIANCE WHO WAS WAITING IN THE VILLAGE

THEN WHAT HAPPEN WITH THE FAIRY?
AT THE CLIMAX OF THE STORY,
ONE NIGHT ON A NEW MOON,
THE FAIRY LURED THE MAN THROUGH THE WOODS, MADE HIM FREEZING.
AND KILLED HIM
THAT'S CRUEL!
WHY KILLED HIM?
IF HE LIVED, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE MAN
COULD HAVE LOVED THE FAIRY
BUT IF HE DIED,
AND MEET HIM EVER AGAIN?
WOULDN'T THAT MAKE HER UNABLE TO SEE HIM
IF LEFT AS IT WAS, THE HUNTER WOULD HAVE MARRIED THE VILLAGE GIRL, WOULD HE?

THE FAIRY HUGGED THE MAN'S BODY
AND KEPT CRYING AND CRYING
UNTIL HER HAIR DISHELVED AND TANGLED
UP TO THIS DAY, WHEN IT WAS SNOWING ALL NIGHT,
SO SHE COULD STOP CRYING
IT IS SAID THAT IT WAS HER TEAR DROPS RAIN THE SNOW...
WHEN THAT HAPPENS THE TOWN'S FOLKS WOULD PRAY FOR THE FAIRY
BUT,
TO HAVE KILLED A PERSON ON WHOM IS
NO, I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
YOU MIGHT UNDERSTAND THE SIN COMMITTED BY THIS FAIRY.


IF IT'S FOR THE MAN WE LOVE,
IT'S OKAY IF WE HAVE TO DIE.
SO, EVEN IF THE ROLE OF THE VILLAGE GIRL WON'T BE A PRO-BLEM,
HE HE
THE ROLE OF THE SNOW FAIRY MIGHT BE IMPOSSIBLE, ISN'T IT?

OKAY, EVERYONE PLEASE ENJOY THE MILK TEA!
COME ON, CHERYL CHEER UP! I LOVE YOUR DANCE!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ABOUT BALLET!
ROSE-MARY
CAN I BORROW THE PHONE AGAIN?
OH
MISS ESME-RALDA GAVE YOU THIS,
she said If you want to make a call again I should give this to you.
TREEK!!
THAT PERSON!
WIDE-LESS PHONE?
IT COMES WITH A MES-SAGE
"DO NOT DISTURB KEVIN'S JOB, OKAY YOU NAUGHTY KID"
she quotes it as is
that's what she said
HMPPHH!!

I'M HOME!
HUH?
GRIM
I BROUGHT CAKE! SHALL WE EAT TOGETHER?
WOW!
YOU BOUGHT JUNK FOOD?!
hey hey! that's too much ya
IT FEELS DARK OVER HERE
CAN YOU PLEASE RESPECT THAT?
CHERYL, YOU WANT SOME?
THE NURSES SAID THE CAKES IN THIS STORE ARE GOOD.
I'M TRAINING AS BALLERINA!
CAN'T YOU SEE I'M ON A DIET!

BUGG!
EX-CUSE ME
AW!
OW
IT'S OKAY, I CAN EAT CHERYL'S PART...
NICK!
OH?
ARE YOU HOME, GLORIA?
YOU'RE EARLY TODAY ...
.....

SORRY
!
SATTT
CHERYL
!
I'M SORRY, DOCTOR SORRY
SATT
YOU'RE A FOOL, CHERYL!
A FOOL! WHY ALWAYS FAIL?
I ONLY WANTED TO
BEHAVE WELL.
LIKE A GROWN UP WOMAN!
TICK TOCK
I HAVE TO
APOLOGIZE TO DOCTOR.

HOWEVER, I WANT YOU TO FORGIVE HER
KEVIN!
I ENVY HER
THAT IS WHY SHE ACTS AWKWARD
SHE'S CURRENTLY TRYING VERY HARD,
CHERYL IS NOT A BAD PERSON

I WOULD NEVER DO SOMETHING I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH
IT WOULD BE A GUARANTEED FAILURE
ACTUALLY TODAY
MY MOTHER CALLED
TO THE HOSPITAL
BECAUSE I
DIDN'T TELL HER MY ADDRESS HERE
USUALLY, SHE KEPT SAYING, "GET MARRIED, GET MARRIED" BUT TODAY
"I WILL NOT SAY ANYTHING ANYMORE."
SHE SAID
HMM.
THE TIME FEELS SO LITTLE, YET THE PROBLEM
IS NEVER ENDING, BUT
I DON'T HATE IT. NOT A BIT
IT'S NOT THAT I
HATE MY CURRENT JOB

BECAUSE I LOVE DOING WHAT I WANTED TO DO
I DID SOME-TIMES.
FEEL KIND OF INSE-CURE
I'M USED TO DO MY JOB, MY SKILL IS INCRE-ASING
MORE AND MORE
UNTIL FEMINI-NETY KINDNESS INNO-CENCE
AND THE NATU-RALS OF BEING HUMAN
WHEN I CALLED HOME,
IT FELT SO MUCH DIFFERENT TO THE PACE I HAD AT THE WORK-PLACE
CAN'T BE FELT ANY-MORE
GLO-RIA.
MY FRIENDS HAD ALREADY MARRIED,
HAVE KIDS AND BECAME PARENTS
AM I ALREADY THAT MUCH LEFT BEHIND ?
I TOTALLY FORGOT
THAT TODAY I'M ONE YEAR OLDER

TODAY
IS MY BIRTHDAY
GLORIA, IT WASN'T JUST YOU.
WHAT HAS BEEN TORTURING ME AND MAKING ME ANXIOUS IS LIVING ALONE
YES
YES
I UNDERSTAND
I UNDERSTAND

to be continued to chapter 23

Mr. Fredward's Duck

by Keiko Ushijima

Proofreader: Amelie

Raw/ Translator/ Cleaner/ Typesetter: Fathskie

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ANYBODY WANTS TO DIE?

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WAIT!
CHERYL!
WOOOSH
CHERYL!

YOU CAN'T GIVE UP BECAUSE OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT, CHERYL!
AND THEN?
TODAY
IS MY BIRTHDAY
COMPARED TO THAT COLD CAREER WOMAN, YOU WHO IS YOUNGER AND SWEETER IS DEFINITELY BETTER!
ASIDE OF LEARNING AT SCHOOL, WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU LEARNED?
NO! NO! NO!
DOCTOR IS NOT A COLD WOMAN!
SHE REALLY IS KIND
I KNEW IT ALL ALONG
A LITTLE GIRL LIKE ME ISN'T FIT TO BE THERE
I WAS SO IGNORANT
I KNEW ALL ALONG THAT

FROM THE BEGINNING KEVIN HAD NEVER LOOKED AT ME!
YOU WAIT HERE.
KE-VIN!
THIS IS CHERYL'S AND NICK'S SWEATER!
NO. IT'LL BE BETTER IF I GO ALONE.
I'M COMING WITH YOU!
WAIT!

BARK! BARK!
"pant" "pant"
HOSH... HOSH... HOSH
CHERYL!
WAIT!
WAIT!
NICK!
STEP
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU HURT SOME-WHERE?
HAA... HAAA
I JUST .....
TRIPPED OVER SOME ROOTS
I'M SUR-PRISED!
YOU CAN REALLY RUN FAST, CHERYL!
I NEED TO TAKE A BREAK
SO-ME-WHE-RE
rustle

A FRO-ZEN
LA-KE

"slide"
COME ON, NICK.
WE CAN SKATE
IT'S O...- NGEROUS. IT'S MEL- TING.
THE ICE MIGHT BREAK.
IT'S OKAY, I WON'T GO TO THE MIDDLE.
HAVE YOU EVER READ KEVIN'S BOOK?
HM?
A LOT OF PEOPLE HAD DISPOSED DEAD BODIES IN THIS LAKE.
WHA!?

WOOOOSH
AAW!
HE SAID, LIVING PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BOTHER THE DEAD WHO ARE SLEEPING HERE.
THE SNOW FAIRY IS CRYING AGAIN
THAT WAS A VERY STRONG WIND, MAYBE IT WILL SNOW HEAVILY TONIGHT.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN TO THIS LAKE.
KEVIN DOESN'T LIKE TO COME HERE.
NICK, ARE YOU COLD?
NO, I'M FINE SINCE I CAME RUNNING

IN HIS BOOK, THERE IS ONE PARTICULAR CHARACTER NAMED SALLY.
SHE'S AN EARTH-BOUND SPIRIT.
earthbound spirit
IS SHE REAL?
THAT CAN'T BE, IS IT?
IT'S JUST A STORY KEVIN MADE UP!
UH... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
GEEZ YOU HAD ME THERE.
BUT...

SOME-
HOW
IT'S
SAD,
ISN'T
IT?
TO
DIE

WANTS TO DIE?
CHERYL
GRRR..
"PANT"
EXCUSE ME!
PANT
DID YOU SEE A LITTLE BOY
AND A GIRL ABOUT 16 Y O AROUND HERE?
"PANT"
"PANT"
OH, MR FRED-WARD!
UH

I HEARD A DOG BARK TO THE DIRECTION OF THE LAKE
THANK YOU!
SATT
AH!
WAIT! IT'S ALMOST DARK!
YOU CAN GET LOST!
.....
UH HE'S ALREDY LEFT...
THE CREATURES OF THE NIGHT ARE JUST ABOUT TO COME OUT
HE WAS IN SUCH A HURRY!
ZUUUUU
ROSE-MARY SAID...

GOD IS HERE
WE SEEK HELP FROM GOD
AND WE PRAY TO GOD
FOR INSTANCE, MY MOM AND DAD
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
AS BEING DEAD
IT'S THE SAME
BUT FOR THOSE WHO STOP PRAYING, EVEN IF THEY'RE STILL ALIVE,

MAY-BE...
AND EVEN THOUGH KEVIN DIDN'T SAY IT,
MY DAD IS DEAD.
IT CAN'T BE...
YOUR PARENTS
MY OWN EYES, BUT
WELL I DIDN'T SEE WITH
SHE WAS ALREADY VERY SICK
BECAUSE WHEN WE WERE SEPARATED,
MY MOM IS DEAD TOO
AREN'T WE ALL?
YOU ARE ALL BY YOUR-SELF?
ARE YOU SAYING...

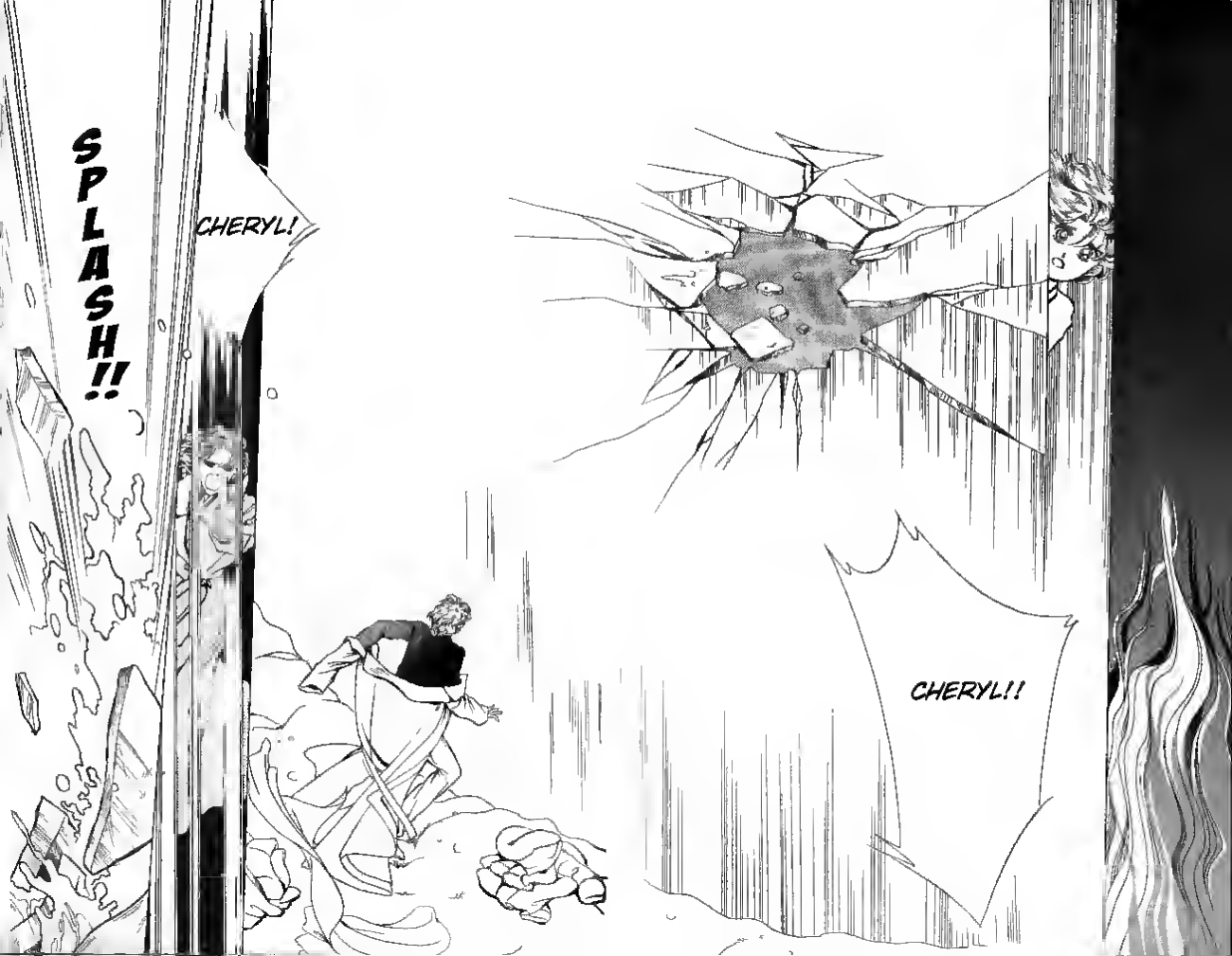
EVEN FAMILIES WHO LIVE UNDER THE SAME ROOF,
OR INSEPARABLE TWO LOVERS,
WALKS DOWN THE ROAD WHICH CAN ONLY BE WALKED ALONE
IT'S A NEVER-ENDING CIRCLE
THAT'S WHY PEOPLE HOPE FOR COMPANIONS,
AND HAVE EXPECTATIONS FROM SOMEONE ELSE
AGAIN AND AGAIN, OVER AND OVER
BUT YOU'RE NOT ALONE, BECAUSE YOU HAVE KEVIN.
DO YOU LIVE WITH KEVIN?
WHY...
I'M WAITING IN THAT HOUSE
WAITING FOR WHAT?
KEVIN'S RESOLUTION

FOR HIM TO SAY HE WANTS TO ADOPT ME
YOU WANT TO BE ADOPTED?
I CAN'T TELL YOU.
IF YOU DIED,
I'D COME WITH YOU

STUPID! DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT OR I'LL BE ANGRY!
THAT'S WHY WE'RE THE SAME, CHERYL!
RUSTLE
HOPING AND FEELING ANXIOUS WHEN THINGS AWAY AND CHANGED
YOU JUST HAVE ASTHMA! DON'T TALK LIKE YOU HAVE A TERMINAL ILLNESS!
EVERYDAY IT'S CHANGING FOR THE WORSE.
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TIRING WAITING IS
NO IT'S TRUE
I'M TIRED
WAITING FOR SOMEONE WHO WOULD WANT ME,
TIRED OF WAITING FOR ME TO BE CURED

"PANT"
"PANT"
KEVIN!
!
IT'S DANGEROUS! GET OUT OF THE LAKE!
CHE-RYL!
NO!
DON'T COME CLOSER!
THAT'S WHY, THAT'S WHY CHERYL, WE ARE...
I HATE YOU KEVIN!!
...THE SAME

I HATE THAT YOU NEVER PAY ATTENTION TO ME!!
WE...
KRAKK
WE WOULD MUCH RATHER TAKE THAN TO GIVE


SPLASH!!
CHERYL!
CHERYL!!

AH.. NO, SNOW FAIRY
I CANNOT TAKE THE LIFE OF THE MAN I LOVE
IN RETURN,
TAKE MINE INS-TEAD
FREEZE IT WITH YOUR ICE, BURN IT WITH THIS FLARE,

SO THAT MY HEART WON'T FEEL ANYTHING ANYMORE
ZRAKKK
CRACK

THE CUP CRACKED
SREKK
I HAVE A BAD FEELING.
MY HEART'S FLUTTERING
I'LL GO LOOK FOR THEM

SPLASH!
KE-VIN!
DON'T COME IN HERE!
THE ICE WILL CRACK, YOU WILL DRAWN IN!
CHERYL WHERE ARE YOU?
THIS LAKE HAS MANY CREVICES AND MY HEART CAN'T TAKE IT MUCH LONGER
THE WEED
.....?
I NEED TO RESURFACE NUMEROUS TIME OR I CAN'T POSSIBLY DIVE
THE LONG WATER WEED MIGHT HAVE TANGLED HER

KE-VIN!!
HELP!
HEELP!!
WUSSHH
KE-VIN!!
I HAVE TO
FIND HELP!
HOSH...
HOSHH
NO
DON'T FALL SICK IN THIS PLACE
I'M SO USELESS
I CAN'T MOVE!!
BARK! BARK!
COME ON!! MOVE!!
CLIFF... GO...
HU..
HURRY..

GO NOW!!
DASH
UGH...
MOM, DAD,
PLEASE HELP THEM BOTH...
PLEASE GOD, THAT'S ENOUGH..
DON'T TAKE ANYMORE
OF PEOPLE THAT I LOVE...

GO TO SLEEP
GO TO THE END
THEN I WILL BE FREED FROM THE PAIN
THE LAST RAY OF LIGHT
I CAN LIVE IN AN ETERNALLY QUIET WORLD
WHO?
THERE'S A LIGHT
WHO?
IT'S BLINDING

GRAB

AHHHH!

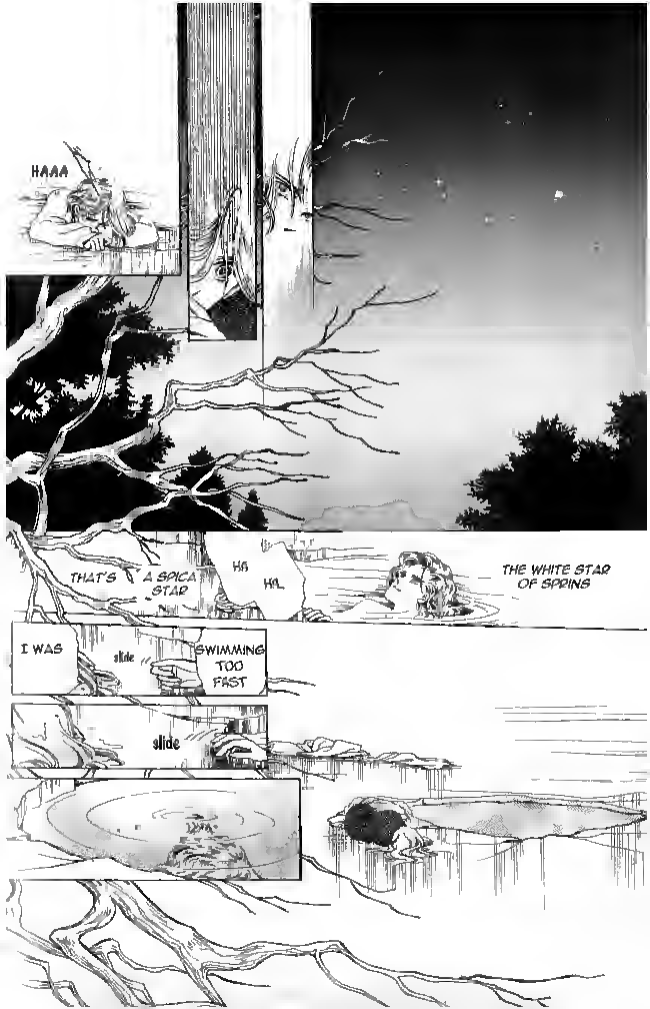
MY HAND HURTS! LET GO!!
WE HAVE TAKEN TOO MANY LIVES
IT HURTS! LET ME GO!!
DON'T LET GO
DON'T EVER LET GO
AAAHH!
HELP ME!!
YOU SHOULD LEAVE THIS PLACE
SOB
SOB

I'M SCARED
WHY IS IT SO DARK HERE?
WHY CAN'T I SEE ANYONE?
AM I ALONE?
WHAT WAS THAT? WHO ARE THEY? WHAT THEY WANT?
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
THIS IS THE WORLD THAT YOU SEEK
THIS IS NOT A PLACE TO PULL A TRICK, NOR A PLACE TO DIE.
I'M CARED!
SCARED! SCARED!
I'M SCARED
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU JUST WANT TO GET THAT MAN'S ATTENTION!
WHO ARE YOU?!
tamb rattle
A SOUND OF A TAMBOURINE?

CHE-
RYL,
WHERE
ARE
YOU?
MY CHEST
HURTS
HAVE
TO RE
SUR-
FACE
.....!
BE
STRONG!
BLUUUP!

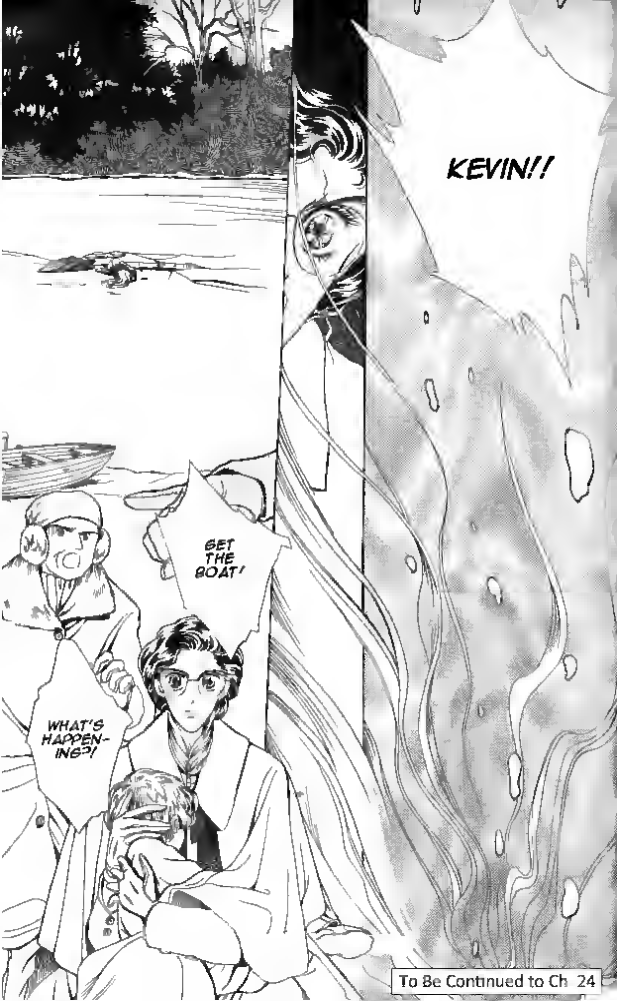
BEGGG!
SHIT! AN ICE LAYER!!
WHERE WAS IT?
WHERE IS THE EXIT?!
IT HURTS....!
UP, QUICK!
SALLY

SPLASH!
HOSH...
HOSH...
HOSH...
HOSH...
HOSH...
CHERYL,
BLUPP BLUPP
HANG IN THERE
LOOK
BEGG
WE'RE ALREADY OUT
GET UP
WE'RE
BEGGG
ALREADY OUT..
HAA... HAA...
COUGH
COUGH


HAAA
THAT'S A SPICA STAR
HA HA
THE WHITE STAR OF SPRING
I WAS
slide
SWIMMING TOO FAST
slide

EXCUSE ME!
DID YOU SEE AN 18 Y.O GIRL AND A BOY NEAR HERE?
THAT'S AT THE LAKE.
..!
BARK!!
BARK!
CLIPP!!

BARK!!
BARK!!
HE LOOKS WEIRD
WHERE'S THAT LAKE?!
I'LL SHOW YOU!
WERRR
I HOPE
EVERY-ONE'S SAFE!
GRAHHH
!
NICK!?
HANG IN THERE!!
OVER THERE



To Be Continued to Ch 24

Mr. Fredward's Duck

by Keiko Ushijima

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Raw/ Translator/ Cleaner/ Typesetter: Fathskie

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Watermark
Vol. 7 Ch. 24

KEVIN!
CALM DOWN!
WOOOSH
KEVIN!
WE CAN'T ADD ANOTHER PERSON ON THE BOAT!
BUT KEVIN!
HE MIGHT DIE!!
JUST LEAVE IT TO US!
GLEN!
CAN YOU DO ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION?
THAT'S

I CAN
I CAN
BE-CAUSE I'M A DOC-TOR
CALM DOWN GLORIA
TUNE DOWN YOUR EMOTION
YOU UN-DERSTAND DON'T YOU? FOR NOW, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS NOT TO RUSH TO KEVIN TO HELP..
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS ..
THAT I'M A DOCTOR!
CHERYL, SHE MUST BE TREATED FIRST!
SET HER FIRST!

CRASH
CHERYL!
COME ON, CHERYL!
HURRY
FUUUUH
THANK GOD WE GOT PULSE
KEVIN, HURRY
FUUUUH
PLEASE RESUR-FACE!
HURRY
cough cough
CHERYL, YOU'RE AWAKE?
IF YOU DON'T COME OUT NOW... IT WILL BE TOO LATE!
cough cough
HANG IN THERE! YOU'LL BE FINE
WE GOT THE MALE!
BEGGG!

WHO IS IT?
WHO'S CRYING?
WHO?
AH IS THAT YOU, SALLY?
DID WE DISTURB YOUR SLUMBER?

HAVE YOU BEEN REMINDED
OF THE WARMTH OF THE SUN, THE GOOD OLD DAYS, AND THOSE PAINFUL MEMORIES?
I'M SORRY...
DON'T CRY BECAUSE I'LL STAY HERE WITH YOU
UNTIL YOU CAN GO BACK TO SLEEP?...
GLOP!

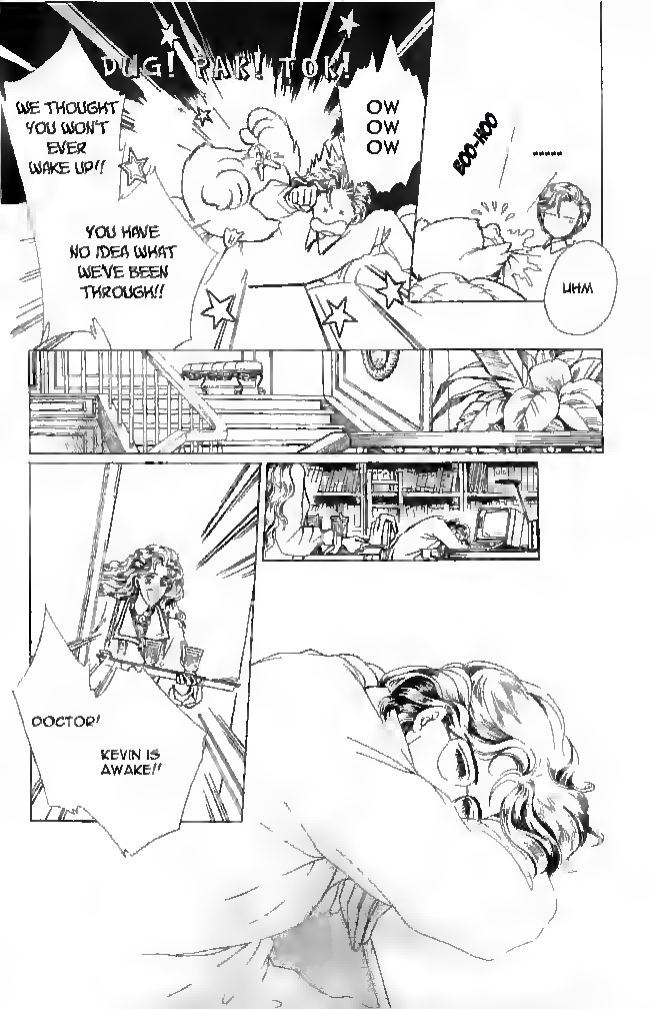
HIS HEART
STOP-PED
IS IT TOO LATE?
HE COULD DIE!
PLEASE! HELP ME DO THE CPR!
BREATH
3000
4000
5000
1000
2000
HELP HIM
PLEASE HELP KEVIN!

COFFEE
SMART BOY, AREN'T YOU JOSHUA?
MOM... MY...
TREM
KNOCK
KNOCK

WHY ARE YOU CRYING—
GLORIA
GLO
RIA—
WHAACK!
I'M NOT DOCTOR!
STOP HUGGING ME!
KEVIN!
YOU'RE AWAKE?!

YOU'RE SAVED!! YOU'RE SAVED!!
crying loudly
YOU'VE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS FOR THREE DAYS!!
CHE-RYL!
CHERYL AND NICK?!
CALM DOWN,
THEIR CRITICAL PERIOD IS OVER
BUT CHERYL IS STILL ASLEEP

WAAAA
WHAT'S WITH THAT STUPID EXPRESSION?!
whack!
That might cause some kind of trauma
I WAS SCARED TO DEATH, YOU PECKLESS IDIOT!!
YOU WERE IN A COMA AND YOUR HEART STOPPED!!
IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN STRANGE IF WE HAD TO PREPARE A FUNERAL!
Isn't that exactly why you should be more careful with a sick person?
NOBODY GOT ANY SLEEP BECAUSE OF YOU! NOW MY PROUD AND FLAWLESS SKIN IS RUINED BECAUSE OF YOU!
IF I HAVE WRINKLES, I'M BLAMING IT ON YOU!!!
BLAMMM!
DEEP IN HER HEART, SHE'S REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU
I UNDERSTAND THAT... A LITTLE
"teary"
IDIOT!!
RO-
ROSEMARY?


DUG! PAK! TOK!
WE THOUGHT YOU WON'T EVER WAKE UP!!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH!!
OW OW OW
BOO-HOO
.....
UHM
DOCTOR!
KEVIN IS AWAKE!!

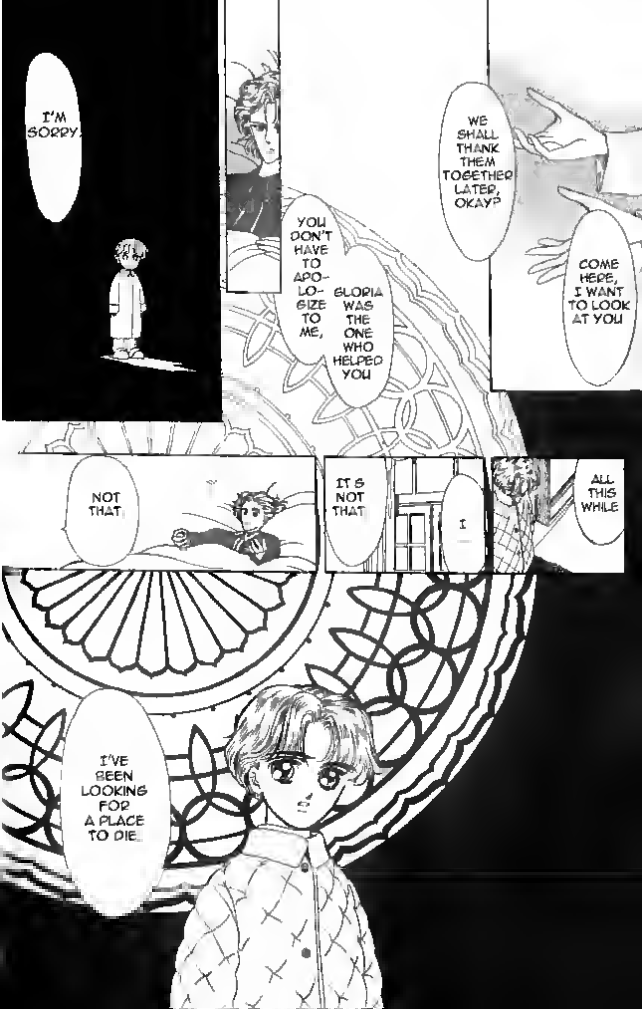
BRAKKK!
ESME-RALDA, HELP!!
OF COURSE SHE'S EXHAUSTED
LET'S DO OUR BEST!
WE CAN'T GIVE UP UNTIL HELP COMES
CAN SOME-ONE CALL THE LOCAL CLINIC?
NO, DON'T MOVE THEM AROUND TOO MUCH!
WHAT IF WE GIVE THEM MASSAGES?
TAKE OFF CHERYL'S AND KEVIN'S SHIRT
HEAT THE ROOM! BRING THE HEATER TO THE MIDDLE OF THIS ROOM!
BOIL WATER! GET ME BLANKETS!
GIVE ME MORE BLANKETS!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
FIRST CHANGE THEIR CLOTHES,

HMM? ESMERALDA?
DID YOU MAKE ME COFFEE?
THANKS
NO.
DON'T DRINK IT.
YOU SHOULD TAKE A REST
I CAN'T DO THAT. IN 30 MINUTES I HAVE TO REPLACE CHERYL'S IV.
CRACK
IS KEVIN AWAKE YET?
BUT HE'S BETTER NOW. HIS FEVER WENT DOWN
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO BED, HAVE YOU?
NO
NOT YET
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR HEALTH
PLEASE HAVE SOME SLEEP
WHAT IS WITH YOU TODAY?
YOU'RE VERY KIND

"drag"
ESME-RALDA
I'LL WAKE YOU UP IN HALF AN HOUR
YOU'RE ALWAYS PRETTY, AREN'T YOU?
I HAVEN'T EVEN BRUSH MY HAIR OR WASH MY FACE
SINCE YESTERDAY
IS THE PRETTY ONE,
COM-PARED TO PEOPLE'S OUTER APPEA-RANCES,
YOU WHO DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.
ELOPIA

NOT GOOD.
STOP COMPLAINING IF YOU WANT TO GET WELL SOON, YOU HAVE TO EAT THAT!
BUT I EXPECTED MEAT MEAT!
NOT A SMASHED LOOKING SOUP LIKE THIS!
YOU CAN'T!
"chuckles"
SEE?
I TOLD YOU HE'S AWAKE AND IS FINE
HE'S NOT DEAD
NICK!
ROSEMARY,
YES
AS PROMISED, YOU HAVE TWO MINUTES, OKAY?
BLAMM!

IS THIS REALLY ALL RIGHT, MISS ESMERALDA?
WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE
NICK INSISTED TO SEE KEVIN OR HE WON'T GO TO BED
but don't tell Gloria, ok?
BUT THAT CHILD
STILL HAS A HIGH FEVER


I'M SORRY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO ME,
GLORIA WAS THE ONE WHO HELPED YOU
WE SHALL THANK THEM TOGETHER LATER, OKAY?
COME HERE, I WANT TO LOOK AT YOU
ALL THIS WHILE
I
IT'S NOT THAT
NOT THAT
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO DIE

BECAUSE THE WORLD WILL NEVER CHANGE.
ONLY A FEW PEOPLE WHO KNOW ME WOULD FEEL SAD.
EVEN IF I DIE,
I SINCERELY ACCEPT MY FATE.
AND I GREW UP WITHOUT HAPPINESS.
I HAVE A WEAK BODY
I KNEW IT SINCE I WAS LITTLE
THAT WAS ALL.
THAT TIME,
AWAY OF THIS ILLNESS AND UNFORTUNATE LIFE
BECAUSE FOR A PERSON LIKE ME, TO DIE MEANS TO BE FREED FROM THIS PAIN,
IT WOULDN'T MATTER
WHETHER I LIVE OR NOT,

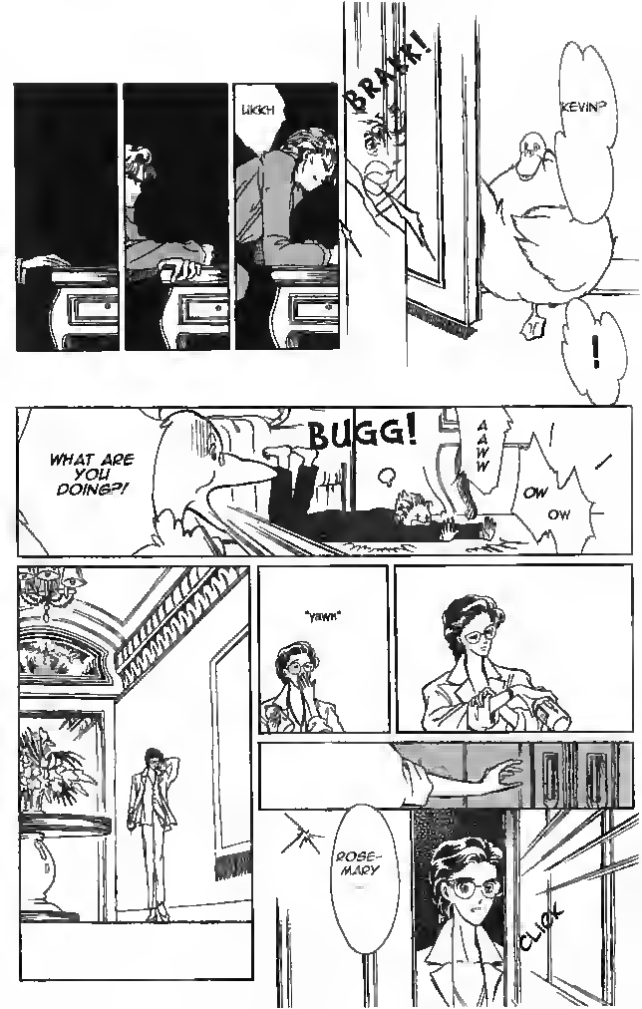
UNTIL THAT TIME, "NICK DON'T GO HERE! THE ICE WILL BREAK AND YOU WILL DRAWN IN!"
KEVIN!
THAT TIME IN MY HEART,
I WAS SO ANGRY
FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE
MY HANDS AND FEET WERE SHAKING MY BLOOD WAS BOILING FROM ANGER
UHH... GET UP!
I HATED MY ILL-NESS!!
I WANTED TO HELP,
THAT TIME, WHAT I WANTED TO DO THE MOST,
WAS TO FIND HELP.

I WANTED TO HELP YOU AND CHERYL!
NO
I DON'T WANT TO...
I'M SCARED TO DIE!
I'M SCARED TO DIE!!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE!
I DON'T WANT TO!!
NICK!
NICK!
COME HERE!

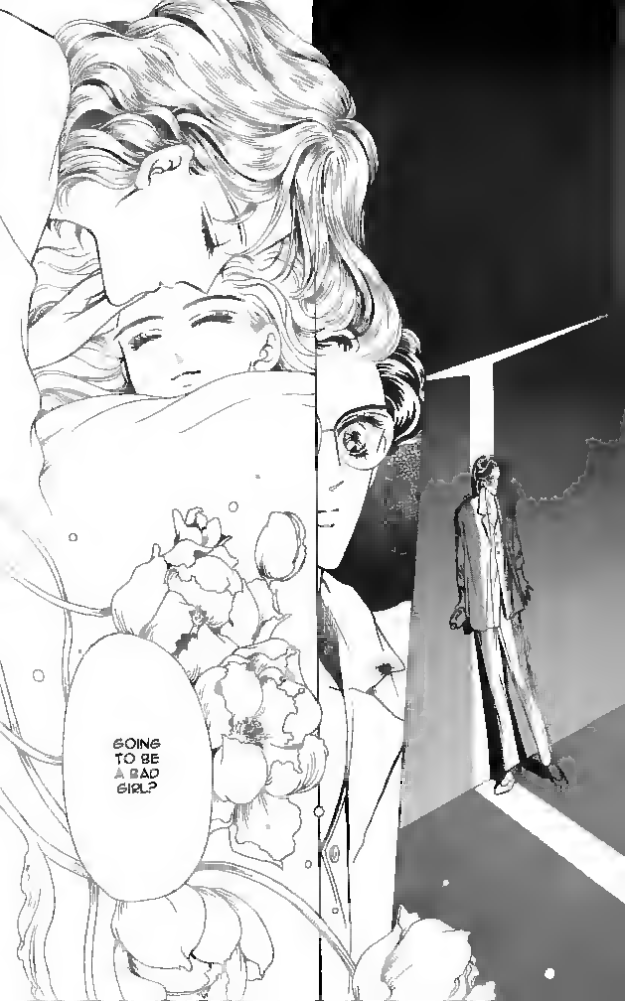
KEVIN!!
UKKHH
I DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO LIFT YOU UP
I CAN'T EVEN HOLD YOU PROPERLY
THIS IS LAME
NO, NO
IT'S OKAY, THIS IS JUST FINE
IT'S BEEN ONLY A FEW DAYS I'M HAVING THIS FEVER AND I ALREADY FEEL TERRIBLE
NOW I UNDERSTAND
I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN FEELING
NICK,
I ALSO DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE

KEVIN, I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH

ESMERALDA.
WHAT.
IS CHERYL AWAKE YET?
NO
COULD YOU PLEASE TAKE ME THERE?
DENIED.
LATER!
CLICK
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING.
YOU WANT TO SEE HER, DON'T YOU?
HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED IT WAS HER WHO GOT YOU IN THIS CONDITION?!
YOU WANT TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF
FOR HER STUPID ACT?!
DDDRRT


LIKKH
BRAKK!
KEVIN?
!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
BUGG!
?
AAWW
OW
OW
"YAWN"
ROSE-MARY
CLICK

KEVIN, YOU'RE AWAKE!
AM I REALLY THAT IMPORTANT TO CHERYL?
DOES SHE HAVE TO KEEP FOLLOWING ME?
ALL THIS MISHAP,
WHEN IT'S OVER,
WHAT OTHER TRICK WILL YOU TRY TO PULL?
IF I DON'T STAY WITH HER FOREVER,
IS THIS GIRL


GOING TO BE A BAD GIRL?

JO-SHUA
OPEN WIDE, AAA~
AAAA
Is it good?
ROSE-MARY MADE THIS YOU KNOW?
MMM
YES?
WERE YOU SAYING SOME-THING?
HUH?? NO - NOTHING
ouchh don't eat the spoon!
GRRRT
THEY LOOK VERY HAPPY, DON'T THEY...
I WAS ENGAGED 8 YEARS AGO
YOU'RE SE-RI-OUS?!
I have about 20 to 30 love stories, you know!
unbelie-vable
YOU KNOW, IF EVERYTHING WENT WELL,
I COULD HAVE BEEN A MOTHER BY NOW
HUH?! WHAT?!

I WAS DUMPED!
MY CURRENT SUPERVISOR WAS A SCARY LECTURER WHEN WE WERE STILL AT MED-SCHOOL
AND I WAS HIS PET STUDENT
I WAS THRIVING
I WANT TO CANCEL OUR ENGAGEMENT
I THOUGHT HE WASN'T SERIOUS.
WHY BROKE UP?
AND WANTED TO SPECIALIZED ON THE SAME SUBJECT
WE BOTH HAD WANTED TO MAJOR AT MEDICINE.
BUT I WAS FRIVOLOUS
DO YOU LOVE ME?
TO GET MARRIED
I HADN'T REALIZED THAT HE COULDN'T WAIT
BUT OF COURSE!
DO YOU WANT TO GET MARRIED SOON, GLORIA?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WE ONLY HAVE HALF A YEAR BEFORE GRADUATION!

BUT HE WAS.
NOT A MONTH LATER,
HE GOT MARRIED
TO A GIRL NOT YET IN HER TWENTIES.
LIKE CHERYL.
IF THAT TIME I HAD LISTENED TO HIM,
IF I QUIT MY JOB, MAYBE TODAY I-
DON'T SPEAK NON SENSE!
HOW..
IN MY CASE IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO RETURN TO PROFESSIONAL MODELING, BUT...
I HAVE PLANS TO START WORKING AGAIN!
COULD A MAN
ARE YOU FORGETTING THAT THIS LIFE YOU'VE BUILT
IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING?!!

EVEN THOUGH KEVIN ONLY HAS HIS EYES ON YOU
I UNDERSTAND NOW, GLORIA, WHY YOU ACTED LIKE YOU DID ABOUT CHERYL.
STILL CARRYING OLD WOUNDS
YOU CAME HERE
THOSE PAINFUL MOMENTS ONCE AGAIN?
COULD IT BE THAT THIS TIME I WILL HAVE TO GO THROUGH
I WANT TO COOL MY HEAD ALONE.
I WANT TO CONTEMPLATE THINGS.
GLORIA...
I WILL SLEEP AT THE HOSPITAL STARTING TOMORROW.
GLORIA...
WHILE THE MAN HIMSELF COULD LEAVE THAT PERSON WITHOUT FEELING ANYTHING
TO THE POINT THAT THE PERSON CAN SHAKE IT OFF?
LEFT SUCH A STRONG FEELING IN A PERSON,
I WON'T BE RETURNING HOME FOR A WHILE.
TELL KEVIN,

UHH
CHERYL, CHERYL
GET AWAY
WHO?
CHE-RYL
GET AWAY FROM HERE!
.....
AAAAAHH!

ARE YOU AWAKE?
GASP
I'M NOT DEAD
WE'RE SAVED.
BOTH OF TO RESCUE YOU, KEVIN JUMPED INTO THE FROZEN LAKE, AND
YOU WERE SAVED.
HE...
NICK...!

NOT DEAD!!
I
DIDN'T DIE
DOCTOR AND THE PASSERBY ON THE VILLAGE HELPED YOU
DOCTOR DOCTOR!
DOCTOR DEN-SHAM!!
WHY DOES SHE KEEP GETTING ON MY WAY?!
WHAT KIND OF GRUDGE DOES SHE HOLD AGAINST ME?!
BUT, THANK GOD..
TO BE SAVED ....
NOT GOOD AT ALL!!
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING! DON'T TALK AS IF YOU KNOW!!
YOU'RE JUST A KID!!
I DIDN'T MEAN THANK GOD FOR SAVING YOU OR ME!!

I AM GRATEFUL THAT KEVIN WAS SAVED!!
UMM
CHERYL, I LIKE YOU
BUT KEVIN, HE'S DIFFERENT
I WILL STILL FORGIVE HIM. UNDERSTAND HIM.
IT'S NOT ABOUT WHETHER I LIKE HIM OR NOT,
IT'S NOT RELEVANT
EVEN IF HE WAS EVIL OR BECAME EVIL,
THAT IS WHY

I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!!
THAT IS WHY IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM,
THEN I...
I WAS THINKING MAYBE I SHOULD BE HATING YOU?!
NICK, I...
NICK!!
I WAS CONFUSED...
NICK
I KEPT THINKING LIKE THAT, OVER AND OVER UNTIL HE WOKE UP
I WAS CONFUSED LIKE THAT.

JUST A BIT MORE
I WOULD HAVE KILLED SOMEONE, RIGHT?!
IF NOBODY WAS THERE
IF DOCTOR W. SN'T THERE,
NOT EVEN A LE-GEND
NOT A FAIRY TALE,
I WOULD HAVE
WITH MY OWN HANDS I WOULD HAVE
Miracle will happen to you too.
WITH THESE HANDS
I WOULD HAVE KILLED A MAN

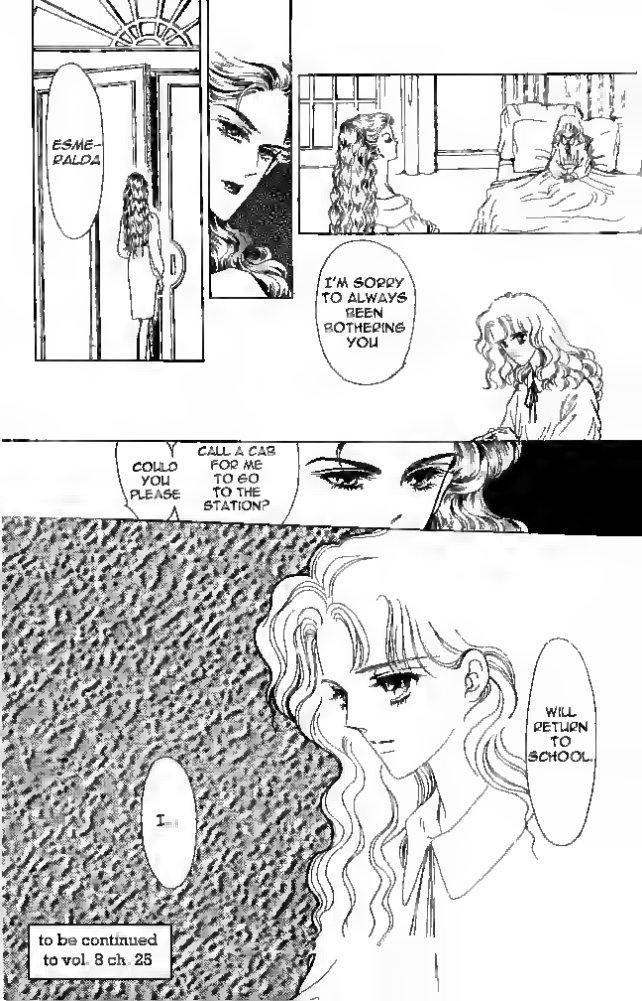
THE MAN THAT I LOVE SO DEARLY
I'M SORRY, I'M SO SORRY
CHERYL!!
I WAS ONLY THINKING ABOUT MYSELF -
I'M SORRY
SO SORRY
EVERY-ONE, I'M SO SORRY
CHE-RYL!

I LIKE YOU.
I COULD NOT CONSOLE YOU
OR DO YOU LIKE KEVIN MORE?
CAN'T IT BE ME?
NO NO IT'S NOT THAT IT'S NOT THAT—
NICK, I DON'T DESERVE
YOUR FEELINGS

I HAVE ONLY WANTED TO REACH YOU, TO HOLD YOU LIKE A CHAIN BRACELET I JUST WANTED TO LOVE YOU, THAT WAS ALL
A MAN AND A GIRL ON THAT SUMMER, WILL NEVER BE TOGETHER.
A BRIGHT GOLDEN WATERMARK ON THE SPARKLING SEA.
BUT WHEN I LOOKED AT MY FEET, IT WAS THE BRACELET ON MY FEET THAT FELT HEAVIER

CHIRP CHIRP
CAN I SEE HER?
SHE'S AWAKEN?!
UMM...
SHE SAID SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE YOU!
ROSEMARY! I'LL GET CHERYL'S BREAKFAST, OK.
Huh?
WHY ....?
AH, OKAY ...
AND GLORIA?

WHERE IS GLORIA?
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, SHE WAS RUSHING TO HOSPITAL TO TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING.
TELL KEVIN, I WON'T RETURN HOME FOR A WHILE
KNOCK KNOCK
creak
creak
step step


ESME-RALDA
I'M SORRY TO ALWAYS BEEN BOTHERING YOU
COULD YOU PLEASE
CALL A CAB FOR ME TO GO TO THE STATION?
I
WILL RETURN TO SCHOOL.
to be continued to vol. 8 ch. 25